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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 38th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/45/3, A/45/76 and Add.1-E/1990/12 and Add.1, A/45/77 and Add.1-E/1990/10 and Add.1, A/45/584, A/45/598-S/21854, A/45/646, A/45/648)

(a) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued) (A/45/273 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5; E/1990/85 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5, A/45/281 and Corr.1; E/1990/66 and Corr.1)

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(e) WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued) (A/45/3; E/1990/99)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. CARVALHO (Brazil) recalled that Brazil had participated actively in setting up the system of multilateral technical co-operation for development. Technical co-operation had helped to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, heighten awareness of world economic problems and promote peace. While shortcomings in the current system persisted particularly with respect to co-ordination among the various organizations, great headway had been made in the past 40 years and the system had undergone profound changes in response to growing technical co-operation needs. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had, *inter alia*, adopted the country programme approach in order to integrate flows of assistance into national development plans, thereby strengthening the decision-making powers of recipient countries. The current session should result in further improvements in the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 44/211, as analysed in the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/45/273 and Add.1-5).

2. The report perhaps overemphasized the role of programming in the implementation of resolution 44/211, for the joint appraisal mechanism would impose an additional administrative burden on recipient countries. That would be contrary to the desired simplification.

3. The consensus of 1970 and General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) on new dimensions in technical co-operation remained fundamental and the basic characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system - universality, voluntary nature, neutrality and multilaterism - were still the corner-stones of the entire United Nations development system. Accordingly, steps

(Mr. Carvalho, Brazil)

must be taken to ensure that the principle of universality was not violated. That could happen if an attempt was made to classify countries even further, as had occurred when the fifth programming cycle was being debated at the most recent session of the UNDP Governing Council, in the absence of an increase in donors' contributions in real terms.

4. The United Nations system must also be adapted to realities in the field, as stipulated by resolution 44/211. In that context, the principle of national execution of projects must be encouraged. The relationship between developing countries, UNDP and specialized agencies must evolve, for direct implementation was the best way to achieve self-reliance. That required that the system support the establishment in developing countries of administrative, programming and evaluation units responsible for international co-operation. The system must play a more active role in building the capacities and institutions of developing countries, so that they would be able to co-ordinate and programme flows of external assistance by themselves. Moreover, national execution would be greatly facilitated if the provisions of resolution 44/211 on simplification and harmonization of procedures were implemented.

5. Brazil had acquired some experience in international co-operation. Within the framework of South-South co-operation, thousands of foreign technicians had been trained in Brazilian institutions. Technical co-operation among developing countries had grown substantially through the United Nations system. Further efforts should be made to implement all the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, however. The question of the transfer of technology as a component of UNDP-funded programmes and projects was particularly important. The United Nations development system should act more decisively in that field and seek innovative mechanisms to meet the demands of developing countries.

6. The deterioration of the economic and social situation of developing countries in the 1980s underscored the important role of multilateral technical co-operation for development in the 1990s. Undeniably, United Nations co-operation had contributed to improving the situation of the developing world, even if the results had not always been commensurate with the efforts made. Brazil would make every effort to improve and strengthen its relations with the organizations of the system in the decade ahead.

7. Mr. BOUNTHEUNG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the rapid and profound changes which had occurred in the world in recent years had aroused great hopes. The end of the cold war and the fact that confrontation had given way to co-operation and dialogue were positive trends which would contribute to solving essential problems facing mankind, such as human development and socio-economic inequalities. In that context, the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the new international development strategy were extremely encouraging decisions and formed a solid basis for development co-operation in the years to come.

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(Mr. Bountheung, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

8. His delegation attached great importance to operational activities for development and had for many years benefited from valuable assistance from the United Nations system. The visit by the UNDP Administrator in early 1990 had strengthened co-ordination between the Lao Government and the Programme. The flexibility of UNDP activities would facilitate the implementation of decentralization measures introduced as part of the new economic management system aimed at increasing productivity and competitiveness through greater reliance on market forces and the private sector. The round tables organized for Laos in 1983, 1986 and 1989 under UNDP auspices had been very important not only for mobilizing supplementary resources but also for establishing a mechanism for the co-ordination of assistance. His country looked forward to receiving more assistance from UNDP in developing its macro-economic programme, and technical help with the preparation of its third five-year plan (1991-1995).

9. It was very encouraging that the Administrator had said that the least developed countries would receive 55 per cent of total IPFs during the fifth cycle. The fact that UNDP was focusing on the eradication of poverty, the environment, management, development, TCDC and technology transfer would undoubtedly help to build national capacities. The report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/45/273 and Add.1-5) gave information on the progress made in implementing resolution 44/211. Given the complexity of the issue, the results achieved so far were applicable, and his delegation hoped that the resolution would be fully implemented on time. While welcoming the adoption of resolution 44/211, Laos hoped that the international community would take into account the particular difficulties of the least developed countries in terms of human resources and capacities. In today's interdependent world, multilateral economic and development co-operation was coming to the fore and Laos, for its part, would spare no effort to strengthen and promote it.

10. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom) restated the three basic concerns which had always guided operational activities for development: the need to give more help to the poorest countries and the poorest people; the need for better co-ordination within the United Nations system; and the need for the system to concentrate on activities in which it held a comparative advantage. Significant progress had been made in all three areas during the past year.

11. With regard to poverty, his delegation welcomed the decision that the poorest countries should receive 87 per cent of country IPF resources under the fifth cycle. Implementation of resolution 44/211 could be expected to help co-ordination, and the UNDP Governing Council's decision on agency support costs would help to ensure that the various parts of the system concentrated on meeting the real needs of recipient countries rather than on selling projects that suited their own interests.

12. The annual report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation took stock of the implementation of resolution 44/211 and was, on the whole, fairly optimistic. The addendum to the report (A/45/273/Add.5)

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(Mr. Harrison, United Kingdom)

which provided a comprehensive plan for the implementation of resolution 44/211 was principally based on action taken by UNDP and UNFPA. It was thus incomplete, and he hoped that the remaining agencies would show the same enthusiasm.

13. Implementation of resolution 44/211 was making satisfactory progress in the area of decentralization. However, it was necessary to guard against creating a machine that was more elaborate than necessary for implementing the changes that everyone wanted; above all, additional and unnecessary layers of bureaucratic procedure must not be created.

14. The United Kingdom supported the concept of a common country statement. What was needed was a mechanism which would help recipient countries formulate their own priorities, rather than blending them with those of the United Nations system. His delegation was pleased to see that some countries were ready and willing to follow that course. Agreement was emerging on the harmonization of programme cycles. National capacity-building was a corner-stone of United Nations assistance, but a headlong rush into national execution would not be a good idea. A gradual approach was more realistic. Harmonization and simplification of rules and procedures was also an important task.

15. Implementation of resolution 44/211 was thus proceeding, and his delegation hoped that the Second Committee would take the opportunity to give it additional impetus by drawing up a single text which would form the basis of a consensus on the subject.

16. Mr. ALTAMIMI (Bahrain) said that the slowing down in the rate of growth of the world economy during the 1980s had been due to the restrictive financial and monetary policies applied by certain countries; to natural disasters (drought, desertification, etc.); to regional conflicts; to balance-of-payments disequilibria; to exchange rate fluctuations; to an unprecedented increase in interest rates; to the drop in commodity prices; and to the growth of protectionist and discriminatory practices in various States.

17. The developing countries were those most affected by such factors. Most of them had had to take structural adjustment measures, which had caused net reverse transfers of resources, a drop in investment levels and a curtailment of public spending on development projects and social services (health, education, training, housing, etc.). Those measures had also had a grave effect on standards of living and employment in the developing countries, and the resultant social unrest had placed several Governments in an extremely difficult situation. Furthermore, most of those countries had had to halt the development of their technological capacities, widening the economic and technical gulf separating them from the developed countries.

18. The human dimension of development, referred to in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 44/211, had to take a leading place in all programmes, as mankind was not only the means but also the end of any economic and social development process.

(Mr. Altamimi, Bahrain)

19. The two recommendations aimed at providing the United Nations system with the resources it needed to act as a high-grade, global specialized service responsible for providing ongoing information on development models, techniques and experience, and at training staff for operational activities for development were particularly welcome. It was important that all developing countries without exception should be able to benefit from what the United Nations system had to offer in the development sphere, and such assistance should be offered without exception or restriction.

20. Gross national product and infant mortality rates were among the main indicators of social development, but in the case of the developing countries, they were often deceptive. That was particularly true of island nations. Account had to be taken of other factors such as external debt, the volume of net transfers of financial resources out of the country, the country's economic bases (whether its natural resources were abundant, or nearly used up, renewable or non-renewable), and its opportunities for diversifying its sources of income and developing by its own means.

21. It was essential for the UNDP Governing Council to take account of the above factors, particularly when drawing up the list of net contributor countries, so that its decisions did not cause undue hardship to certain developing countries. Furthermore, the entire question of net contr[illegible] status should be re-examined in the light of developments in the economic situat[illegible] of certain countries and from the standpoint of the principle of universality advocated by UNDP, especially since the funding strategy submitted to the Governing Council stressed the need to increase core resources, take account of the priority needs of the developing countries and find, at both national and international levels, new forms of financing that drew on resources other than core resources.

22. Mr. TRAORE (Mali) said that implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system must be a central concern at a time when international relations were entering one of the most constructive phases in the history of humanity.

23. A high level of contributions had been pledged for UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. While not at the ideal level, those contributions had constituted a considerable improvement and were a sign of an increasing commitment to the multilateral system on the part of Member States. International organizations must become the main vectors of international assistance, and multilateralism must also be strengthened, because it provided an ideal framework for building symmetrical and equitable interdependence.

24. In 1989, during the triennial policy review, Mali's evaluation of the National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NaTCAP) mechanism, round-table meetings and consultative groups had been both positive and critical. In that connection, the gap between planning theory and the constraints of reality must prompt the relevant bodies to improve their approach. They must step up the co-ordination of their activities with the help of intergovernmental bodies so as to adopt an integrated approach, the best way to promote rational, lasting and sustained development in the developing countries.

(Mr. Traore, Mali)

25. Resolution 44/211 gave clear directives to the institutions, but it also conferred upon the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the main co-ordinator, the responsibility for undertaking the reforms needed to strengthen their co-operation. In that context, questions on UNDP's central funding role and the new prerogatives of the resident co-ordinator should be examined within the framework of a "workshop conference" of the relevant United Nations bodies. The system's operational activities for development were marked by characteristics typical of multilateralism: flexibility, non-conditionality, apolitical approach and impartiality, elements that played a crucial role in the development process.

26. The international community must give closer attention to bodies in charge of operational activities for development by allocating them the funds needed for the programmes they carried out in collaboration with the recipient countries. In that connection, his delegation stressed the importance of the activities of UNDP, IFAD, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and, more particularly, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), whose work was aimed at alleviating the difficulties of one of the poorest regions, which had been hard hit by desertification. UNSO, which was supported primarily by the Nordic countries, must receive greater backing from the international community.

27. The measures taken by UNDP in its implementation of resolution 44/211 should also be taken by all the relevant bodies, so that the United Nations system could draw greater benefit from them, particularly in terms of substantial savings. The changes in procedures, policies and programmes would surely improve the effectiveness of the services offered to the developing countries.

28. Institutional backstopping and enhanced national capacities, notably within the framework of project execution by Governments, were essential pillars of operational activities for development, because they involved transfers of skills. Such support was essential for making the concept of assistance evolve towards that of international co-operation.

29. Mr. NASUTION (Indonesia) recalled that the operational activities of the United Nations system, which had taken on new importance at the beginning of the 1990s, must be universal, voluntary, neutral, multilateral and on a grant basis. Their primary objective must be self-reliance for the developing countries. Such activities must also be able to meet the needs of the developing countries rapidly and must be carried out at their request, in keeping with their own policies and priorities. The international community must seize the new prospects offered in the current period of momentous change, and define guidelines to reflect the new environment in accordance with the principles set forth in various recently adopted documents.

30. General Assembly resolution 44/211 was a response to the new challenges of the current world and the increasingly diversified needs of the developing countries. Decentralization, which was a basic aspect, was essential to achieving self-reliance and improving the capacities of the system in the field. That was

(Mr. Nasution, Indonesia)

closely linked to the enhancement of national capacities, and to programme and project execution by Governments. Equally important was the new programme approach, which should allow for a better adaptation of activities to the objectives and priorities set in national plans. Governments must formulate country programme frameworks, a process that would be greatly facilitated by the simplification and harmonization of programming rules and procedures. For all those reasons, the effectiveness of the provisions of resolution 44/211 would depend to a large degree on the level of staff competence at the country level, and the activities undertaken by the organizations of the system. In that context, his delegation welcomed the Director-General's comprehensive implementation schedule.

31. Indonesia was convinced that international technical assistance, which took tangible form in UNDP's work, was vital to the well-being of the peoples of the developing countries. It welcomed the growing recognition of the human factor in development, which, as shown in UNDP's Human Development Report 1990, was central to promoting development and alleviating poverty. The human development index did not replace, but complemented the traditional parameters used for measuring the level of development. The Jakarta Plan of Action, adopted by ESCAP, took that factor duly into consideration, and its implementation had demonstrated its great significance for the development of the countries of the region. His delegation therefore welcomed the UNDP Governing Council's decision to strengthen national capacity in the following six areas: poverty eradication, environment, management development, technical co-operation among developing countries, technological transfer, and women in development.

32. Indonesia, one of the most densely populated countries of the world, was conscious of the importance of the activities of UNFPA, which had helped to develop and implement Indonesia's national population programme and make it an integral part of its national development plan. Sustained development required the implementation of more efficient programmes in that area. For that reason, his Government had made every effort to increase its contribution to the Fund, and was looking forward to the conclusions of the international meeting on population, to be held in 1994.

33. Mr. PANDAY (Nepal) said that resolution 44/211 clearly reaffirmed the exclusive responsibility of the recipient Governments in formulating development plans, and the need for United Nations operational activities to be in step with national plans and objectives. Decentralization, harmonization of programming cycles and simplification of procedures would help strengthen the national capacities of developing countries and promote a more positive impact. In that connection, his delegation was pleased that the organizations of the system had begun to follow up the provisions of the resolution. However, its full implementation required that certain conditions should be fulfilled, particularly with regard to the financing of activities and agreement on what was covered by the new concepts set out in the resolution.

34. It was to be hoped that the organizations of the system would make every effort to ensure that scarce grant resources were allocated on a priority basis to

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(Mr. Panday, Nepal)

programmes and projects in the least developed countries, and served above all to eradicate poverty. For their part, the donor countries must strive to increase substantially their contributions to operational activities and to meet the targets set for official development assistance. The role of those activities in the developing countries could not be belittled, but without a sound financial basis, their impact on the eradication of poverty would be greatly limited.

35. His delegation felt that all parties to multilateral technical co-operation should agree on their understanding of the new concepts formulated in resolution 44/211 prior to their implementation. It fully supported the Director-General's recommendation that he should be responsible for organizing consultations to correlate the various interpretations of those concepts and for seeing that they were disseminated throughout the system through guidelines, manuals and training and other instruments. The Director-General should also organize task forces consisting of representatives of organizations and agencies participating in operational activities to review the training of personnel in developing countries, as well as other teams to design rational and cost-effective uses of modern technology which, through the resident co-ordinators, would be made available to national institutions in developing countries to meet their various needs. The Director-General and the entities engaged in operational activities should collaborate in a coherent plan of work on the simplification, harmonization and adaptation of rules and procedures. It was to be hoped that the Director-General would be provided with sufficient staff and with adequate financing from extrabudgetary contributions to accomplish that task. For its part, Nepal was prepared to support and execute any activities that might be required to achieve successful national execution of programmes and projects.

36. The central role of UNDP in financing and co-ordinating technical co-operation was a well-established fact, but needed to be further strengthened. The participation of UNDP in training programmes for national personnel should be expanded. The Human Development Report 1990 was a positive step; the measures it recommended provided clear guidelines for developing countries.

37. He praised the efforts of UNDP to optimize technical co-operation activities, particularly the measures it had taken to make better use of its resources, to respond more effectively to the needs of developing countries and to find better ways of achieving sustainable development. It was inevitable that as UNDP expanded its activities, it would need additional funding. His delegation therefore urged developed countries to increase their contributions to the core and non-core resources of UNDP.

38. Nepal had always appreciated the importance of the role of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in spreading awareness of the relationship between population and development. It was hoped that the Fund's assistance would enable Nepal to lower its rate of population growth, to integrate family planning into basic health services and to further integrate population issues into its development programmes. The report of the Executive Director of UNFPA on the implications of the Amsterdam Declaration focused on some very pertinent issues in

(Mr. Panday, Nepal)

the elaboration and execution of projects. The implementation of the Declaration's principles required increased financial resources, particularly through official development assistance and funds from the World Bank and other lending institutions.

39. The numerous activities of UNICEF in Nepal had helped to significantly improve the health and well-being of the population. The current emphasis of UNICEF was on women's access to credit and on the strengthening of literacy programmes for women. His delegation welcomed the international mobilization that had followed the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the success of the World Summit for Children. Those efforts had given Governments a better understanding of the problems that existed in that area, and had impressed upon them the need to take individual and collective measures for the protection of children.

40. The UNICEF medium-term plan for the period 1990-1993 took ample account of the goals and strategies for the protection of children in the 1990s: health, nutrition, education, access to safe drinking water, sanitation, reduction of infant and maternal mortality, reduction of malnutrition, universal access to basic education and reduction of adult illiteracy. If all of those challenges were to be met, it was essential that the budget of UNICEF should show an annual real growth rate of at least 3 per cent. His delegation hoped that donors would pursue their efforts in that area.

41. Food aid was crucial for countries that suffered from poverty. The assistance of the World Food Programme had proved invaluable, particularly for the least developed countries. His delegation shared the view of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation that a long-term perspective on the place of food aid in development activities would facilitate achievement of the goal of self-sufficiency in food production set by most developing countries. Nepal was convinced of the need to integrate food aid into development assistance programmes, and fully agreed with the Director-General's proposal that the World Food Programme should be invited to recommend measures to better integrate food aid into other types of assistance provided by the system.

42. Mr. MINET (International Labour Organisation) said that the Governing Body of ILO was currently examining the provisions of resolution 44/211, and that its decisions would be communicated shortly to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. He noted that the Governing Body had always responded positively to the requests made to it in General Assembly resolutions.

43. The purpose of resolution 44/211 was to implement a universally recognized principle: that self-reliance must be the final objective of technical co-operation. That called for, *inter alia*, the establishment and strengthening of national institutional capacities, the training of national personnel and the transfer of technology. That dimension would have to be enhanced, particularly through fuller utilization of existing capacities. National execution of programmes and projects was one form of self-reliance, and that desirable and necessary procedure must be strengthened in accordance with the needs of

Governments. ILO also considered it an excellent means of opening the system to public organizations such as trade unions and other non-governmental organizations.

44. ILO was contributing to the implementation of resolution 44/211 through its co-operation with other agencies of the system. It would participate actively in the fifth programming cycle of UNDP, and would co-operate closely with that organization and its member States in addressing the issues of poverty, employment and human resource development. To that end, ILO would continue to strengthen and develop its technical capacity in the key sectors that came under its mandate, pursuant to the resolution on technical co-operation of the 1987 International Labour Conference. Of course, it did not have its own country programmes, as did the system's large lending institutions, but it remained committed to developing a coherent and adequate response to the needs of countries by strengthening multidisciplinary programme approaches.

45. The effective implementation of resolution 44/211 was related to the solution of the problem of reimbursing support costs through tripartite co-operative arrangements. ILO shared the view of the UNDP Administrator that an equitable solution to that issue would result from the current consultations. ILO would spare no efforts to reach that goal.

46. In conclusion, he emphasized that the entire United Nations development system must take advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves. The structure of ILO, which associated Governments and the professional organizations that represented their national spirit of initiative, was well-suited in many respects to the promotion of tangible results.

47. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that the new political environment had given people renewed hope for a better and more stable world and for a higher level of economic and social development. That awareness had prompted the international community to find new approaches to international economic co-operation. The Declaration adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, the positive outcome of the negotiations on the new international development strategy, and the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had reflected the commitment of all the participants to a new global consensus in the socio-economic field. The eradication of poverty, sustainable development and an improved quality of life were priorities for all countries. There was no doubt that the United Nations system must play an essential role in taking up the challenges of the 1990s. It was with that understanding that his delegation viewed the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211. In that endeavour, the operational activities of the United Nations system should build on the basic principles of the 1970 consensus: universality, voluntary and grant components, neutrality and multilateralism.

48. At its thirty-seventh session, the UNDP Governing Council had adopted decisions on many questions important to the entire technical co-operation system, such as the future role of UNDP, successor arrangements for agency support costs,

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(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

criteria for distribution of IPFs for the fifth programming cycle and programme management. His delegation noted with satisfaction the positive attitude of UNDP towards the profound changes in Eastern Europe. That approach would facilitate its integration into the world economy. It also welcomed the orientation of United Nations technical co-operation activities towards solving global environmental problems, a crucial area whose complexity and breadth required wide-ranging international technical and economic co-operation. In that regard, Bulgaria attached particular importance to the ecological aspects of the UNDP regional programme for Europe, in particular the combating of the devastating pollution of the Black Sea.

49. As far as the restructuring of future UNDP activities was concerned, his delegation felt it necessary to refine existing project execution methods in order to increase the efficiency of those activities in national economies. In that regard, it supported the leading role of recipient Governments in the definition of their priority development areas and co-ordination of operational activities on the national level. The role of resident representatives in that process should also be strengthened. Recognizing the growing importance of the human dimension of development, Bulgaria paid special attention to the activities of UNICEF and UNFPA and would continue to participate actively in their work. He noted with satisfaction the recent population conference held at Amsterdam under UNFPA auspices, as well as the World Summit for Children, held in September in New York.

50. Mr. SIEBER (Permanent Observer for Switzerland) said that the year following adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/211 had been marked by several very important events: the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, which had set important strategic objectives; far-reaching decisions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council on the fifth programming cycle, successor arrangements for agency support costs and national execution of projects; the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which had reaffirmed the support of industrialized countries for LDCs; and the new international development strategy.

51. Those facts underscored the need to enhance the operational activities of the United Nations system, making the stipulations of resolution 44/211 even more important. He mentioned examples, such as system-wide adjustments, necessary to achieve a more integrated approach to operational activities; their concentration on real comparative advantage of the various United Nations bodies; strengthening of national capacity at all stages of programme and project implementation; and delegation of authority.

52. In that context, the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/45/273/Add.5) described adequately the measures taken and planned by various bodies of the system. His delegation fully supported the pragmatic approach proposed regarding national programme frameworks and formulation of an integrated system response. It was important, in that context, to use existing mechanisms, such as NaTCAPs, consultative groups and round tables.

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(Mr. Sieber, Observer, Switzerland)

53. He also welcomed the efforts of inter-agency bodies, in particular, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions. The latter had recently conducted very useful consultations on several issues relating to resolution 44/211, such as the role of the resident co-ordinator, joint programming, common premises and harmonization of procedures. It must be encouraged to pursue its efforts.

54. At its previous session, the UNDP Governing Council had adopted several important decisions which should strengthen its role as a central funding mechanism for operational activities and improve the operation of the system as a whole. The decision concerning national execution of programmes and projects was an example. Though Switzerland supported increased participation of national partners in that area, it recommended, however, that the modality should be gradually introduced. Government execution should not be considered an objective in itself, but rather an option; for the results and impact of programmes and projects were most important. Efforts to strengthen capacity of recipient countries should be pursued pragmatically. UNDP must attempt to find the most appropriate execution formula in each case in co-operation with national authorities, agencies and NGOs.

55. Implementation of resolution 44/211 would depend to a large extent on the results of negotiations on successor arrangements for agency support costs. The decision taken on that subject by the UNDP Governing Council should lead to a system-wide improvement in programme quality. That decision had not been implemented with sufficient energy, however. There was a close correlation between the various aspects of resolution 44/211, in such a way that lack of an acceptable solution for successor arrangements could seriously jeopardize the entire system-wide reform effort. It was important for UNDP and its partners to consider carefully the various issues at stake.

56. The improved operational activities system as envisaged by resolution 44/211 would also require increased financial resources. They must be utilized for substantive action and not for administrative procedures; further, efficient utilization of comparative advantage of various organizations would allow improvements in operational activities. It was only through concerted effort that sustainable human, economic and social development could be achieved.

57. Mr. MAYORGA CORTES (Nicaragua), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, said that, despite the spectacular changes experienced throughout the world over the past year, grave economic and social problems had not been alleviated. The problems of abject poverty, hunger, unemployment and lack of education posed a threat to the political stability and economic growth of developing countries, and the external debt problem remained the major obstacle to overcome. The Central American countries had not been able to avoid those difficulties. Increased unemployment and inflation as well as a significant drop in real income had brought their standard of living back to the level of the 1960s or 1970s, and in Nicaragua, back to the 1940s or 1950s. In Nicaragua, per capita income was less than $300, and external debt amounted to $3.2 billion or 30 times annual exports and 4 times GDP, probably the highest per capita debt in the world.

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(Mr. Mayorga Cortes, Nicaragua)

58. The eighteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation had been a very important event, reflecting the new spirit of international co-operation within the United Nations. The participants had recognized that the principal goal of economic policies and development was improvement of the human condition. The Central American countries unreservedly supported that objective. More recently, another very positive event had been the World Summit for Children, whose Declaration and Plan of Action had shown an unprecedented unity of goals among northern and southern countries for the achievement of common objectives and the resolution of the most serious problems. Furthermore, disarmament and the gradual reorientation of part of the military complex to productive activity favoured a climate of confidence and constructive co-operation among the members of the international community. The Central American delegations felt that besides disarmament, the success of operational activities depended on other elements, such as lasting peace and the strengthening of the democratic process in recipient countries. The growing United Nations political role in seeking peaceful solutions to disputes should go hand in hand with greater participation in the search for solutions to the most urgent economic and social problems of developing countries, including those relating to human rights. The United Nations should seize that opportunity to promote an authentic international dialogue and, thus, to obtain a broader economic and social consensus.

59. The medium- and long-term goal of operational activities for development should be the improvement and strengthening of country mechanisms and institutions, given that countries were principally responsible for project execution and co-ordination and that United Nations activities should be mainly consultative and complementary. Operational activities should be carried out at government request and in accordance with their national development policies and priorities. In its resolution 44/211, the General Assembly had also recognized that it was incumbent on recipient countries to evaluate their needs and to programme and co-ordinate international aid. The Central American countries considered the implementation of its recommendations a matter of urgency, in accordance with the principles of the new international development strategy.

60. The development of human resources was one of the central elements in the strategy of operational activities and called for the strengthening of the educational sector, acceleration of the training process and enhancement of the scientific and technical capabilities of the developing countries. It was therefore essential to establish mechanisms for co-ordination and action to harmonize the interests of the public sector, the private sector and the academic and research community of the Central American countries and to strengthen the programmes and institutions at the regional level, such as the Central American Institute for Industrial Research and the Centre for Training and Research in Tropical Agriculture. In order to meet the challenges of co-operation for development in the 1990s, it was necessary to preserve the most important characteristics of operational activities, namely, their neutrality, impartiality, non-conditionality and flexibility and multilateralism and also to preserve their spirit in order to take account of new directions in human development and to defend at all cost the principles of the 1970 consensus.

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(Mr. Mayorga Cortes, Nicaragua)

61. For the Central American countries, the support of UNDP had been extremely valuable, notably its efforts to strengthen its social programmes and, in particular, to promote the role of women in the development process, as well as its activities as the co-ordinating agency for the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America. The Central American countries reiterated their call for the international community and the specialized agencies to support the extension of the Plan for an additional period and their request for the allocation of financial resources, made at the thirty-seventh session of the UNDP Governing Council.

62. The Central American countries congratulated UNICEF on its efforts to find concrete solutions to the most pressing problems of children. Its recent successes were encouraging, in particular the holding of the World Summit for Children. They also attached paramount importance to the role of UNFPA. The co-operative activities involving the Fund and the countries of the region in the areas of family planning and maternal and child health warranted mention, and it was satisfying to note that financial contributions to the agency had been increased. They also welcomed with satisfaction the valuable activities of the World Food Programme (WFP) to satisfy pressing food needs and to promote social and economic development. Any reduction in food aid would seriously affect the low-income countries with a food deficit, and the sources of finance should therefore be strengthened. The Central American delegations noted with satisfaction that the results of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities had exceeded expectations, and they supported the target of an annual increase of 8 per cent in UNDP's core resources for forthcoming years.

63. The Central American delegations welcomed the efforts made by the UNDP Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office to improve the statistical base presented in its reports and to analyse the often incomplete information supplied by the agencies and also the increasing proportion of goods and services purchased in the developing countries. The efforts made by the Office to provide information relating to experts, consultants, volunteers and scholarships were also encouraging. The Central American delegations considered that it was appropriate for expenses to be distributed among grant-financed development activities, but they were concerned by the fact that in 1989 extrabudgetary resources had practically equalled regular budget resources. It was important to have extrabudgetary resources, which could be used in a more flexible manner, but the Central American countries were also concerned by the low level of ordinary resources, which made counterpart resources difficult to obtain and so limited the growth of extrabudgetary resources. The Central American delegations believed that operational activities should be principally concerned with the fight against poverty, the adoption of social measures to give a human face to the process of adjustment, the development of human resources, food aid, science and technology, technical co-operation between developing countries, the strengthening of management capabilities and the participation of women in the development process. East-West détente offered a unique opportunity to renew international co-operation in an effective manner and on a more stable basis. The effectiveness and the impact of operational activities for development should therefore be strengthened, and the Central American countries were prepared to give their support to the United Nations in that endeavour.

64. Mr. MOORE (United States) said that improving the effectiveness of the United Nations system for development required a major restructuring of the co-operative relationship between UNDP, the specialized agencies and recipient Governments. He called attention to the recent decisions of the UNDP Governing Council on agency support costs and national execution, which provided the framework for a dialogue between UNDP and the agencies on the restructuring process. That dialogue had been slow in getting under way, and UNDP and the agencies should pursue more vigorously the process of redefining their co-operative relationship and formulating concrete proposals for more effective capacity-building assistance to developing countries.

65. The United States fully supported the efforts to strengthen the field operations of the United Nations system and to improve co-ordination and co-operation among organizations at the country level. Given the cross-sectoral nature of development problems, it was essential that the field staff of United Nations organizations should work as a team, under the leadership of the resident co-ordinator. That would not be easy to achieve, as the country representatives of United Nations organizations looked to their respective organizations for guidance rather than to the resident co-ordinator, and the current structure encouraged the pursuit of the particular interests of each organization. One possible solution would be to encourage the integration of field staff within a unified country office with partial UNDP financing of the salaries of representatives of the major agencies. Such a system would be consistent with the central funding concept embodied in the consensus of 1970. In order for that approach to work, the resident co-ordinator should be a person with leadership qualities and able to mobilize effectively the resources of the United Nations system. It was also important that he should receive the full and effective institutional support of UNDP.

66. The United States was a strong supporter of national execution of UNDP-assisted projects but believed that building up the capacity of national Governments and institutions to assume full management responsibility and accountability for development programmes and projects was more important than the implementation of a modality which relied excessively on UNDP field office support. If recipient Governments were to assume fully the management of such programmes and projects, the participation of organizations of the United Nations system in the formulation and implementation of such projects would have to take place at the country level. He had no doubt that that would require further decentralization of the system to the country level.

67. An even broader-based co-operative effort by all the organizations of the United Nations system, including UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank, was needed to assist recipient Governments to improve their capacities for policy planning, programme formulation and co-ordination of external assistance. The United States believed that "national technical co-operation assessments", or NaTCAPs, constituted a useful first step in the process of developing national programme frameworks for the purpose of co-ordinating the programming and utilization of external assistance. The resident co-ordinator, as team leader, should play a key role in co-ordinating the United Nations system's response to a Government's national programme frameworks and should ensure that United Nations system programming processes resulted in effective, integrated support to national development programmes.

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(Mr. Moore, United States)

68. The strengthening of the resident co-ordinator's role raised an important related issue, namely, the need for better co-ordination of the system's emergency humanitarian aid. Humanitarian assistance concerned several categories of persons: refugees and displaced persons, people affected by drought, famine and other natural disasters, and victims of war and civil unrest. Those categories were closely linked, and the humanitarian assistance activities of the various competent United Nations bodies were potentially mutually reinforcing. The United Nations system's humanitarian assistance had been superb, particularly in Africa, but had often been dispensed in a disparate manner. Institutional capacity should thus be strengthened, so as to enable the relevant components and resources of the system to mobilize and act more quickly and effectively to deal with humanitarian crises around the world. There was a crying need for true inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation in that field, as the situation in Liberia had sadly illustrated. There was a great deal of United Nations humanitarian assistance activity, but it had to be co-ordinated. There was an overlapping of responsibilities between the Second and Third Committees in the field of humanitarian assistance. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/78, the Secretary-General must produce a study on ways of maximizing co-operation and co-ordination among United Nations agencies dealing with refugees, displaced persons and returnees. The United States had co-sponsored a draft resolution under agenda item 95 relating to the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations. A very valuable study had been done on the role of the United Nations in emergencies and ad hoc operations. Papers on natural disaster prevention and on improvement of co-ordination in the United Nations system had been submitted to the joint ACC/CPC meeting; and there were plans to set up a new office in UNDP to cope with emergency co-ordination. The effectiveness of the system in dealing with humanitarian challenges must thus be improved, and the United States would have some suggestions to make on the subject at a later date.

69. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) said that the end of the cold war had been greeted with great relief by the international community, and particularly by the third world countries, whose socio-economic development had been closely affected by East-West tensions. The improved atmosphere should help to raise the abject living standards of the majority of the world's population, and also accelerate socio-economic development in the developing countries.

70. Somalia attached great importance to the United Nations system's operational activities for development, which assisted developing countries in their national development efforts. They should continue to focus on strengthening the individual and collective self-reliance of those countries. The human element was of paramount importance in any such national endeavour, for the primary concern of national development efforts must be man, both as an active participant and as a beneficiary. To lose sight of the human factor would inevitably lessen the effectiveness of those development activities. In his report on developing human resources for development (A/45/451), the Secretary-General rightly stressed the close correlation between human development and economic development, as well as the waste of human resources in the developing countries due to early death,

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(Mr. Osman, Somalia)

sickness, illiteracy and the absence of skills for which education was essential. In paragraph 56, the Secretary-General stressed the value of international measures to assist developing countries in improving their policies and programmes for human resources development.

71. Somalia was facing serious economic problems, exacerbated by the influx of refugees, which imposed a very heavy burden on the Government. His Government was thus grateful to the international agencies that were helping it to cope with the situation and encouraging its development efforts. However, the development activities of the United Nations system must be consistent with the policies and priorities of the recipient countries. While those activities could play a major role in meeting the technical co-operation needs of developing countries through human resources development, institution-building and the transfer of technology, increased attention should be paid to national capacity-building and improved utilization of existing capacity in order to promote self-reliant and sustained growth in such countries.

72. In view of its unique position in the global technical co-operation process, the United Nations should become an international clearing-house for research and evaluation. It could provide a wealth of experience and information of great value to countries which, like Somalia, did not possess the technical information they needed. For the developing countries to acquire the capacity to manage their own development, the system must strengthen its representation and co-ordination at the country level and promote technical co-operation between countries. Recipient countries in the developing world were often disillusioned with operational activities, largely because the relevant General Assembly resolutions were not being fully implemented, thereby preventing any improvement at the execution level. Moreover, resources for operational activities had declined in real terms. It was thus time for the developed countries to increase their contributions to the various organizations of the United Nations system. The relaxation of global tension should result in the release of a substantial volume of additional resources for development purposes, in particular, for strengthening multilateral co-operation for development.

73. Concerted action by the international community was needed in order to see to it that the least developed countries were included in the fundamental transformations taking place in the world economy, for they were now confronted with mounting socio-economic problems. The debt problem, which affected practically all the developing countries, had grown to such proportions that it now threatened their social order and political stability. Against that background, the strengthening of operational activities for development assumed added urgency.

74. The gains resulting from the improvement in the international political climate would have no meaning unless the world community seriously addressed the grave socio-economic problems faced by the developing countries and strove to reduce the disparities between North and South. It was thus to be hoped that at the end of its work, the Committee would be able to work out, in a spirit of co-operation, a strategy that would contribute towards making international assistance to the countries of the third world more effective and fruitful.

75. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had thus concluded its general discussion on agenda item 84.

76. Mr. N'DIAYE (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation), referring to the questions raised during the general discussion on agenda item 84, thanked the speakers for their valuable suggestions and comments. From among the questions raised, he singled out those relating to making Governments more responsible for programme formulation and priority-setting; the desirability of a programme approach rather than a project approach; project execution by Governments and national capacity, a question which must be developed in the spirit of resolution 44/211; decentralization, harmonization and simplification of procedures, which would assist in strengthening Governments' capacity; and the problem of resources and of co-ordination of the activities of the system. He assured the Committee that the bodies concerned had noted members' comments and would spare no effort to meet their expectations and expedite implementation of resolution 44/211.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
39th meeting
held on
Monday, 12 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (*continued*) (A/45/25, 663 and 666)

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (A/45/46, 177, 303, 313, 345, 361, 584 and 666; A/45/336-S/21385 and A/45/598-S/21854)

AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (A/45/177, 303, 361, 666 and 696 and Add.1; A/45/598-S/21854)

1. Mr. TOLBA (Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme) said that, despite the measures taken by some Governments to reduce pollution and waste, action to address the global environmental crisis was too infrequent and too hesitant. The cost of halting pollution, implementing precautionary policies and paving the way for sustainable development would run into hundreds of billions of dollars, and Governments must redefine spending priorities and endeavour to generate new and additional resources. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should introduce lasting reforms in policy priorities and delineate clear actions with defined costs, targets and resources, and identified responsibilities.

2. At the second special session of the Governing Council of UNEP, which had immediately preceded the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, both held in August 1990 at Nairobi, 89 Governments had indicated their unequivocal support for the Conference. After four weeks of deliberations, the Preparatory Committee had requested UNEP to provide technical support or input in 17 areas, ranging from new and renewable sources of energy to environmental education and drought and desertification issues. The Governing Council was reviewing which requests it could fulfil within the ongoing activities of UNEP, and which would require additional financial support from the regular budget of the United Nations. That request had come at a time when the small UNEP secretariat was preparing for the sixteenth session of the Governing Council, to be held in May 1991. Consequently, a number of the reports which the Preparatory Committee had requested from UNEP would most likely be ready only for the Preparatory Committee's third session.

3. Support for the Preparatory Committee was one of the three broad categories of decisions made at the Governing Council's second special session. The second category entailed ways and means of strengthening UNEP and the Council. Proposals for enhancing the role of UNEP included the creation of a United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance, and an early warning system for risks of environmental degradation. The third category of decisions concerned policy guidance for the Programme's priority environmental areas. In those decisions, the Governing Council welcomed the historic progress made at the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. At that meeting, Governments had agreed to amend and strengthen the Protocol through the virtual elimination of the production and use of most ozone-depleting

(Mr. Tolba, UNEP)

substances, and had also agreed to establish a multilateral fund of $160 million over three years, which would increase to $240 million when all the developing countries joined the Protocol. UNEP was working very closely with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Bank's effort to establish a Global Environmental Facility of 1 billion special drawing rights (SDRs), to begin co-operation with developing countries in addressing some of the more serious global environmental problems.

4. The international community was faced with many other environmental issues whose solution required co-operation and determination: they included measures to minimize hazardous waste generation through the urgent ratification by Governments of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and its entry into force, intensified work on the formulation of an international legal instrument on biological diversity within a socio-economic context, and a clear course of action to address the greatest threat to the environment - climate change and global warming.

5. Following the General Assembly's adoption of its resolution 44/207, the Governing Council at its special session had authorized the Executive Director of UNEP to convene, jointly with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), an open-ended working group of government representatives to prepare for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change. The meeting of the working group had been held at Geneva in September 1990, attended by more than 190 representatives from 72 Governments, and had agreed on 20 recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration when it reviewed ways, means and modalities for continuing the negotiating process on climate. Twenty of those recommendations had been adopted by consensus and could be classified in three broad categories. The first was to ensure openness, transparency, universality and legitimacy, as well as the full participation of all countries. The second concerned the organization of the negotiating process itself, and the third group of recommendations involved the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the negotiating process.

6. Mr. STRONG (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) introduced the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on its first substantive session, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990 (A/45/46). He paid a tribute to all who had helped to make the session a success, particularly the Group of 77, even though financial constraints had prevented the Group's full representation. In that connection, the decision to use resources from the voluntary fund for the Conference to finance the travel and daily subsistence allowance of representatives of least developed countries made it especially important that additional contributions should be made to the fund.

7. The importance of the Conference and its preparatory process was enhanced by the Preparatory Committee's decision to recommend to the General Assembly that representation at the Conference should be at the level of heads of State or Government. A predominant theme of the deliberations had been the need to

(Mr. Strong)

integrate the relationship between environment and development in every aspect of the conference preparations and that documentation thus far did not fully reflect that need. The link between poverty and environmental degradation had been stressed and the secretariat had been given valuable guidance for its work on such key cross-sectoral issues as financial resources, the transfer of technology and institutions.

8. In considering the anticipated outputs of the Conference, the Preparatory Committee had agreed that work should continue in the following areas: negotiation of conventions to be signed at the Conference; preparation of an "Earth Charter" or declaration setting out the basic principles for the conduct of peoples and nations towards each other and the Earth so as to ensure a sustainable common future; and the formulation of an agenda for action - "Agenda 21" - setting out concrete measures for implementing those principles after the Conference and into the twenty-first century. Implementation of that agenda would require financial resources, the transfer of technology, and the development of measures to strengthen existing institutions, notably UNEP, as well as co-ordination between development agencies. Given that only a year and a half remained until the Conference, completion of the preparatory work posed a formidable challenge, particularly as the subject matter to be addressed by the Conference was broad.

9. He was confident that that challenge could be met, although the full co-operation and commitment of all parties would be required. The Preparatory Committee had assigned a number of tasks to the Conference secretariat and had made a number of requests to various agencies, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system. He was encouraged by the co-operation displayed by those bodies despite the heavy demands. He was also gratified by the interest shown in the Conference by other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the willingness to contribute to the preparatory work and the Preparatory Committee's decision to facilitate the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process.

10. The Conference secretariat had endeavoured to involve other organizations of the United Nations system in its substantive work. Special efforts were also being made to ensure that experts and institutions from developing countries were fully involved in the work of the secretariat, as it was essential that the interests, experience and perspectives of those countries were reflected therein.

11. The support that was being mobilized to help developing countries prepare for the Conference at the national level and to involve their institutions and experts in that process was also intended to develop the professional and institutional capacities which those countries would need to implement the decisions taken by the Conference. In fact, capacity-building was one of the most important areas in which the Conference would assist the developing countries. He also attached high priority to supporting developing countries in the preparation of their national reports. Following the Preparatory Committee's guidelines the secretariat was co-operating with UNDP in the provision of such assistance. The fact that UNDP resident representatives also served as representatives of the Conference secretariat in their countries of assignment was helpful in that regard.

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(Mr. Strong)

12. Preparations at the regional level were also of great importance. The Asian and Pacific countries had held a regional meeting in October 1990 which had produced a regional plan of action and a number of other important proposals and recommendations for the Conference. A special regional conference was to be held at Bangkok in early 1991. A similar conference for the Latin American and Caribbean region would be held at Mexico City in March 1991 and would benefit from the successful results of the recent regional ministerial conference which had adopted a plan of action for that region. In Africa, a ministerial meeting would be held at Cairo in March or April 1991, in co-operation with the Organization for African Unity (OAU), following a preparatory meeting scheduled for December 1990 at Bamako, Mali. The Conference secretariat was working closely with the regional commissions and other regional organizations to ensure their full involvement in Conference preparations.

13. Climate change was the principal environmental issue facing the international community. The first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the outcome of the Second World Climate Conference provided a promising basis for the launching of negotiations on a climate convention which, he hoped, would be ready for signature at the Conference. Negotiation of that and other conventions to be signed at the Conference should be closely co-ordinated with other aspects of the preparatory process and the Preparatory Committee should be in a position to furnish guidance in that regard.

14. While the work programme of the Conference secretariat was ambitious, he was convinced that anything less would not meet the Conference objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 44/228 or the expectations of the international community. Implementation of the programme would clearly require more resources than those which the General Assembly had approved after the Preparatory Committee's organizational meeting. For example, only 20 Professional posts had been budgeted for the secretariat, to be distributed among Geneva, New York and Nairobi. He believed that the core staff, supplemented by seconded personnel and experts financed from extrabudgetary resources, would be able to carry out the basic work of the secretariat. However, a number of decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee could not be fully implemented without additional resources. For example, reports on subjects such as forestry and environmental cost accounting would require the services of specialists. Furthermore, the Preparatory Committee had yet to establish its third working group, which would review legal, institutional and related matters. Finally, there were still three sessions of the Preparatory Committee to be held only a few months apart at which a variety of issues would be considered. The necessary additional funds would normally be sought from the regular budget, but in view of the current heavy pressures on the budget, the Conference secretariat was trying to meet those needs from extrabudgetary contributions. The response by Governments and foundations to the request for such resources had been encouraging, totalling almost $6 million thus far. With the agreement of donors, a portion of those funds would be used to establish a number of posts at the Professional and support levels so that the activities approved by the Preparatory Committee could be implemented without delay.

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(Mr. Strong)

15. The Conference secretariat would have to maintain great flexibility in the deployment of its limited staff resources. Adequate resources should be provided to cover the services of expert consultants and senior advisers. Also, because Conference documentation had to be prepared between sessions of the Preparatory Committee, the secretariat could not rely on the normal channels of correspondence for the input needed to prepare documentation, but had to use electronic means, dispatch staff to various agency meetings or invite representatives of agencies to participate in working party meetings at Geneva. Additional funds would be sought from the regular budget for those activities. The additional requirements had been included in the revised estimates which he was submitting to the General Assembly under the section of the budget relating to the Conference. He hoped that the Second Committee would endorse those requests, thanked those Governments which had made or pledged generous contributions and urged that, as the current preparations were the most pressing in terms of resource requirements, all delegations able to do so should provide assistance generously and expeditiously.

16. Recruitment of the Conference secretariat was virtually complete. WHO and UNDP had each seconded a senior staff member and several other organizations of the system were planning to follow suit. The team established was exceptionally fine. He was also pleased with the progress of the Government of Brazil in making arrangements for the Conference at Rio de Janeiro.

17. Mr. OBASI (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization) informed the Committee of actions taken in response to requests expressed in General Assembly resolutions 43/53, 44/206 and 44/207 on the subject of climate. The responsibility of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was to facilitate and co-ordinate international efforts in research and observational systems for the purpose of understanding and measuring changes in the Earth's atmosphere and climate, mainly through the World Climate Programme, begun in 1979, in partnership with UNEP, UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU).

18. In addition to co-ordinating international scientific activities relating to climate, WMO had undertaken periodic assessments, with UNEP and ICSU assistance, of current scientific knowledge regarding climate and its policy implications. The first such assessment, referred to in General Assembly resolution 43/53, had led to the establishment, in 1988, of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by WMO and UNEP. The Panel's first assessment report had been completed in August 1990. The Panel had gone beyond the natural sciences to report on the probable impacts of global climate change and a sea-level rise on natural and social systems and national economies. It had also analysed policy options to reduce the threat of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases generated by activities in the energy and forestry sectors and other man-made influences. The Panel had also outlined elements for inclusion in a possible future international convention on climate.

19. The most recent assessment of climate issues and implications for public policy could be found in the final statement of the Second World Climate Conference

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Scientific/Technical session (A/45/696/Add.1, annex II). The participating scientists had agreed that the IPCC report reflected the international consensus of scientific understanding of climate change. They had also reviewed the achievements of the World Climate Programme's operations and had drawn a number of conclusions.

20. First of all, a scientific consensus had emerged that, without action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (referred to as the "business-as-usual" scenario), global warming would occur over the next century at a rate unprecedented in the past 10,000 years, accompanied by a rise in mean sea level of between 30 cm and 100 cm. Uncertainties remained, however, regarding the timing, magnitude and regional patterns of climate change. The Conference had then addressed the use of climate information in assisting sustainable social and economic development, priorities for enhanced research and observational systems, the need for public information, and a number of specific issues which were discussed in part II of the Conference Statement.

21. Of the recommendations made by Conference participants, he drew attention to five in particular. Steps to reduce sources of greenhouse gases must be taken at the national and regional levels and a global convention on climate change and related legal instruments should be negotiated. Emissions of CO_2 should be reduced in all countries given the existence of technically feasible and cost-effective methods of doing so. Scientific uncertainties could only be narrowed through research in priority areas, which the Panel identified. There was an urgent need for a Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), built upon the World Weather Watch Global Observing System and the Integrated Global Ocean Service System, governmental and other monitoring systems such as the Global Atmosphere Watch. Finally, a massive and sustained flow of scientific and technological expertise towards the development of the intellectual resources, technical and institutional capacity of the developing countries was imperative, as were additional financial resources to enable those countries to respond to the problems of climate change.

22. The Executive Director of UNEP had referred to the secretariat established in connection with negotiations on a framework convention on climate and he (Mr. Obasi), emphasized the need for proper funding for that secretariat and meeting servicing, as well as for funds to enable the developing countries, particularly small island States and least developed countries, to participate fully in the negotiations.

23. He drew attention to the Ministerial Declaration, adopted at the conclusion of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annex III), and to paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 28 and 29 in particular. That Declaration was a positive step, and if policies and commitments were carried out further, it might be possible to reach agreement on a convention in time for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

(Mr. Obasi, WMO)

24. He concurred with the Executive Director of UNEP that the action which the two organizations had taken, with invaluable assistance from other organizations, had fully met the General Assembly's requests. Momentum was building towards a new global compact for protecting the atmosphere and climate, and his organization was prepared to assist in that venture.

25. Mr. NANDAN (Under-Secretary-General, Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/45/663). The Secretary-General had brought General Assembly resolution 44/225 to the attention of the international community, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions which specialized in living marine resources (paras. 6 and 7). Their responses had been taken into account in the preparation of the report (para. 8), particularly the detailed studies of FAO and UNEP.

26. Part II of the report noted the concerns expressed by the international community on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and the action taken since the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution. Part III focused on the use of large-scale driftnets by fishing fleets operating on the high seas (para. 28), as the resolution did not address small-scale driftnet fishing in coastal waters practised essentially by developing countries. With the exception of the European Community, where driftnet fisheries were much more likely to be regulated or monitored, management and data collection presented unique problems, precisely because the co-operation of all States concerned was vital.

27. Part IV of the report dealt with international legal instruments on fishing in the high seas, emphasizing in particular, articles 87 and 117 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The report also referred to provisions of the Convention applicable to certain species of fish (paras. 38 to 48).

28. Part V of the report described the rapid expansion of world fishing after the Second World War, made possible by technological changes such as the use of synthetic fibres in nets, the freezing of catches at sea, the widespread use of large nets, the greater versatility and operational range of fishing craft and the enhanced deployment of distant-water fishing vessels. At the beginning of the 1990s, annual fish production, largely from inland waters, stood at nearly 100 million tons. It seemed that the stocks of most preferred fish were being exploited to capacity and yet demand continued to rise.

29. Part V, section B, described the impact of large-scale driftnets on the living resources of the sea. Commercially important species which were landed in poor condition or discarded and by-catches of non-targeted fish and other animals had caused widespread concern (paras. 55 to 62). Other problems included waste by driftnet fishing (para. 64) and "ghost-fishing" by lost or discarded sections of net, which resulted in both a waste of fish and the entanglement of marine mammals (para. 65).

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(Mr. Nandan)

30. Part V, section C, on management needs and objectives noted that further measures were required in order to implement the recommendations in resolution 44/225, including national legislation governing the activities of the flag State's vessels on the high seas; international agreements; and the adoption of internationally agreed practices. The main objective should be the long-term sustainability of the resources affected. Other management objectives included sustained development within the natural constraints of the oceanic ecosystem, optimum sustained utilization of both targeted and non-targeted species, and navigation safety. The duty of States to provide accurate data on catches and fishing efforts was another important element of sound management (para. 73).

31. Part VI reviewed existing large-scale drift-net fisheries region by region. He drew particular attention to a number of conclusions in Part VII. States, international organizations, regional fisheries bodies and other governmental and non-governmental bodies had responded speedily to the recommendations in resolution 44/225, particularly with respect to the 1992 moratorium. None the less, further measures, as outlined in paragraph 70, were required in order to implement the resolution fully. Furthermore, it was contrary to resolution 44/125 to react to the curtailment of drift-net fishing in certain areas of the high seas by attempting to increase or introduce it in other areas. That tendency must be avoided. In conclusion, it was encouraging that many States were taking measures to deal with the problem. He drew attention to Japan's initiation of the moratorium in the South Pacific one year in advance of the target date and to indications by other distant-water fishing States that they would implement the recommendations of the General Assembly.

32. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that General Assembly resolution 44/228 and his opening statement at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development reflected the deep concern of all States over environmental issues. The close link between development and the environment was also stressed in resolution 44/228 and in the Declaration on International Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by consensus at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly.

33. The documentation issued by the Secretariat thus far in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development did not maintain a proper balance between the issues of environment and development. The Group of 77 had expressed its concern in that regard at the session of the Preparatory Committee in a draft decision on environment and development (A/CONF.151/PC/L.12), which the Committee had adopted as decision 1/25. That decision requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit a report on the interrelationships between environment and development, and between the environment and poverty, the lack of economic growth in developing countries, the external debt crisis, the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries and the unfavourable international economic environment. The decision also called for balance between development and environment and the inclusion of cross-sectoral issues in the

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(Mr. Navajas-Mogro, Bolivia)

documents and reports submitted during the preparatory process. It was to be hoped that, in implementing the decision and particularly in providing for financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, the Secretariat would rely on the support of UNEP and other specialized agencies such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. The recent Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 reaffirmed the importance of strengthened international co-operation for environmental protection and improvement, and of the relationship between development and the environment. As the patterns of production and consumption in the developed countries were the principal cause of the world's environmental deterioration, they had a special responsibility in that regard. The developed countries must adjust their economies in order to supplement the efforts of developing countries to protect the environment by making new and additional financial resources available and transferring environmentally sound technology to the developing countries on favourable terms. Furthermore, negotiations for agreements or instruments on the environment must, from the outset, take into account the relationship between the environment and development. The success of the Conference to be held in 1992 would depend largely on the extent to which the developed countries honoured their commitments under General Assembly resolution 44/228.

34. Among the significant resolutions on cross-sectoral issues adopted at the first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committe, resolution 1/8 requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare a report on environmentally sound technology to developing countries. The study would focus, inter alia, on the technological needs of developing countries, the human resources necessary for the transfer of technology; obstacles to the transfer in the export and import phases; the nature of existing programmes; and new mechanisms for those programmes. He wished to clarify that the Group of 77 understood "future sessions" to mean that the report would be considered at the second session of the Preparatory Committee. The international community should support the establishment of new mechanisms to study the transfer of environmentally sound technology, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228. The request in resolution 1/9 concerning financial resources, together with the report requested in resolution 1/8, should supplement the progress report on the implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/228, requested in resolution 1/29 of the Preparatory Committee. The establishment of the Working Group on legal, institutional and all related matters (decision 1/26) was also of interest to the Group of 77.

35. In due course, the Group of 77 would submit draft resolutions on issues requiring action by the General Assembly, including the role of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process of the Conference and operation of the voluntary fund. The lack of contributions thus far was particularly disturbing and the Group of 77 hoped that the international community - the developed countries especially - would support the developing countries in their efforts to attend future sessions of the Preparatory Committee. It was worth noting that of the 94 delegations present at the first substantive meeting, only 59 were from developing

(Mr. Navajas-Mogro, Bolivia)

countries. The Secretary-General of the Conference should submit a written report on the operation of the voluntary fund at the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. In conclusion, as stated in its recent Declaration of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Group of 77 planned to convene a preparatory ministerial meeting prior to the 1992 Conference.

36. Mr. CALIA (Italy), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Community, said that the Twelve believed that global environmental problems could be solved only through global consensus and common disciplines supported by all States, taking due account of the special responsibilities of the industrialized countries. The Twelve thus fully supported the convening of the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, to the preparation of which they were contributing expertise and funding.

37. They welcomed the outcome of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference held in August 1990 at Nairobi. Some idea of the magnitude of the task ahead could be gained from the large number of reports requested from the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Twelve were confident that the secretariat would make the reports available in time for the Geneva meetings in 1991.

38. While recognizing that awareness of the value of the environment had increased dramatically in recent years, the Twelve were convinced of the need to promote further environmental education, especially among young people, and stressed the importance of democratic institutions and pluralism in allowing the whole of society, including women, to participate in decision-making processes related to environment and development. An important contribution could thus be made by the non-governmental community to preparations for the 1992 Conference. They welcomed the agreement reached at Nairobi on non-governmental organizations' involvement in the work of the Preparatory Committee, which should also apply to the next meetings to be held at Geneva and in New York. General Assembly decisions should encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations, whether or not they enjoyed consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in the forthcoming meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself. They also welcomed the meeting of non-governmental organizations, to be held in Paris in 1991, on further preparations for their contribution to the 1992 Conference.

39. Environment, development and population were inextricably linked. One of the major causes of environmental degradation and slow economic progress was rapid population growth, and policies aimed at containing such growth could not be postponed. With regard to the relationship between environment and development, good ecology and good economics coincided in the long term, since environmentally sound management was fundamental to maintaining the natural resources base on which all countries depended for their continued economic development. Environmental considerations should be systematically integrated into national planning, and especially into sectoral policies related to agriculture, industry, transport, energy and town planning, but economic progress and sustainable population growth were also essential to success in addressing problems of environmental

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(Mr. Calia, Italy)

degradation. Poverty was a cause, as well as a consequence, of environmental degradation, and must be combated as part of the commitment to sustainable development. The report requested from the Secretary-General in the relevant decision adopted at Nairobi would further clarify the relationship between the two.

40. All member States of the Community must consider how systems of national accounting could best reflect environmental factors with a view to developing the concept of "depreciation of natural capital" and indicators for evaluating environmental costs. The "polluter pays" principle was perfectly consistent with market mechanisms requiring every transaction fully to bear its own costs. Without help in reconciling economic progress with safeguarding of their environment, countries striving to develop or recover their economic vitality were bound to run into difficulties. The Community was already assisting developing countries in addressing local environmental problems. A special chapter of the Fourth Lomé Convention was devoted to environmental issues in favour of ACP countries. The Community was also assisting Eastern and Central European countries more actively to deal with environmental degradation, inter alia, in the form of specific projects under the Poland and Hungary programmes. Further steps being taken to assist developing countries in managing their environmental problems were the proposed World Bank/UNEP/UNDP Global Environment Facility and the financial mechanism of the revised Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Reliable estimates of developing countries' specific needs in their shift to environmentally sound policies and practices would help them acquire additional funds for that purpose from existing multilateral institutions and donors. Debt-for-nature swaps could also play a useful role.

41. Industrialized countries must facilitate developing countries' access to environmentally sound technologies, on a fair and favourable basis. The Community welcomed the decision on that subject adopted at Nairobi and looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the technological needs of developing countries and the obstacles impeding the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It was also essential to identify indigenous technologies that could promote sustainable development. A further important contribution to the preparatory process would be made by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

42. The Community supported the "precautionary approach". It welcomed the request addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare recommendations on the promotion and application of that approach in respect of marine environment protection. The approach was a logical and progressive development of the "forecast and prevent" model. Absolute certainty was not a prerequisite for action in response to the possibility of serious or irreversible damage. Needless to say, prompt and effective use of the precautionary model required improved and co-ordinated environmental monitoring and assessment procedures.

43. The Community hoped that an agreement would soon be reached on the creation and mandate of Working Group III. In line with General Assembly resolution 44/228,

(Mr. Calia, Italy)

it attached great importance to the further development of international law in the environment sector. It was also important to implement existing conventions and to increase the number of States parties thereto. A charter or declaration should be drafted, setting forth general principles and the rights and obligations of States and individuals with regard to environmental protection and sustainable development. For that purpose, the Preparatory Committee should take particular account of the work of the Experts Group on Environmental Law of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and of the conclusions of the Forum on International Law of the Environment held at Siena in April 1990.

44. The capacity of international mechanisms to deal with the complex decisions involved in rational management of the environment should be improved. UNEP must be strengthened in order to fulfil its catalytic and co-ordinating role in the environment. The decision on hazardous waste adopted by the UNDP Governing Council was a landmark. The Community intended to ratify the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at the earliest opportunity, and urged all States to accede to the Convention and implement it in full.

45. The European Environment Agency being set up by the Twelve could also play a useful role in supplying reliable and objective information on the state of the European environment to other countries and networks. The Governments of the Twelve also wished to put on record the importance that they attached to biological diversity, climate and forestry.

46. Turning to agenda item 81, he welcomed the positive outcome of the Second World Climate Conference. Unless measures were taken, emissions of greenhouse gases would significantly raise the global mean temperature and mean sea level over the next century. While many uncertainties remained with regard to the timing, magnitude and regional patterns of climate change, it would gravely affect the environment of the planet. Applying the precautionary approach, the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that the potential consequences of climate change justified the immediate adoption of response strategies. The Ministerial Declaration, adopted at the Second World Climate Conference, endorsed the conclusion of IPCC which urged the drafting of a convention for effective co-operation to act on greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to adverse consequences of climate change. The Twelve applauded the decision, adopted at the second special session of the UNEP Governing Council, whereby IPCC would continue its work in support of the drafting of a climate convention, with the first session of the negotiating body scheduled to take place in the United States by February 1991. The Community was satisfied with the organizational arrangements of the negotiating process for the convention made by the Ad Hoc Working Group of government representatives meeting at Geneva in September 1990. It believed that a negotiaton process launched by the General Assembly was the one most likely to receive the widest support. UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) must play a leading role in those negotiations, which should start immediately and end before the 1992 Conference. The protocols to the Convention should set targets for limiting and/or reducing greenhouse gas

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(Mr. Calia, Italy)

emissions, and establish measures to curb deforestation and promote sustainable forest management and afforestation. The Community was gravely concerned at the continuing destruction of tropical forests, which developed and developing countries should work together to preserve. While recognizing the sovereign rights of all countries to use their natural resources, it welcomed the commitment of several developing countries to halt the destruction and promote sustainable forest management. The Commission of the European Communities was collaborating with the World Bank and the countries concerned on a special programme for preserving tropical forests in the Amazon region. The Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in London in June 1990, was a further step towards climate protection, but the Community was convinced that more could be done and called for a revision of the London Agreement by 1992.

47. Mr. McDONALD (Observer, Commission of the European Communities) said that the European Community was concerned about the rapid growth of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in the South Pacific during the 1980s and a potential increase on other high seas. It had thus participated actively in formulating Assembly resolution 44/225, which reconciled the need for decisive action and scientifically-based sound resource management with due concern for the socio-economic effects of the progressive phasing-out of that type of fishing.

48. The report of the Secretary-General (A/45/663) would serve as a basis for further discussion on the subject, scheduled for 1991. The Community also drew attention to the political importance of resolution 44/225. The measures taken for halting such fishing in the South Pacific by 1 July 1991 should be welcomed, as should measures taken to secure sound fishing management practices in other regions, including the seas adjacent to the Community.

49. The Community fully supported the conclusion in paragraph 157 of the report of the Secretary-General regarding a possible transfer of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in the South Pacific to other high seas, and considered that such transfers should have ceased with effect from the adoption of resolution 44/225.

50. In view of the need to continue the policy adopted by the United Nations in resolution 44/225, the Community would support the adoption by the General Assembly at the current session of a resolution renewing its pledge for action to combat the wasteful practice of large-scale drift-net fishing. Such a resolution should, however, respect the balance reflected in resolution 44/225.

51. He stressed once again the need for sound fishing management based on the best available scientific data regarding the impact of fishing and fishing gear on living marine resources. That policy should ensure the conservation of fish resources and the minimization of incidental by-catches of non-targeted fish and other animals. The aim had, of course, to be pursued in accordance with the principles of international law, bilaterally, regionally, or, where appropriate, by all members of the international community. In particular, regional efforts were important building-blocks for any multilateral action, and were essential to any sound fishery conservation arrangements. The Community had committed itself to

(Mr. McDonald)

pursuit of that aim, and would continue its efforts to achieve regional and international co-operation in that area.

52. Mr. BARLUND (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had provided a good basis for further preparations for the Conference. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the Committee's recommendations.

53. While negotiations on the conventions on climate change and on biological diversity were being pursued, the "Agenda 21" action plan for solving the most urgent global environmental issues must be developed. The Agenda should address the targets, priorities and allocation of resources and responsibilities for future co-operation. A review of progress should also be included in the agenda.

54. While the close relationship between environment and development had been widely acknowledged, there had been small progress in incorporating it into economic and sectoral policies. The 1992 Conference could make a substantial contribution by pursuing the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies, particularly in industry, agriculture, energy and transport. The Bergen Conference on Sustainable Development had produced important proposals which should constitute a substantive contribution to preparations for the Conference. National budget and national accounts systems should be developed to reflect the real values of natural resources. Fiscal and regulatory incentives, penalties and subsidies should be geared to environmentally sound and sustainable development. Environmental levies and duties should be introduced uniformly among countries, so as to avoid problems such as trade distortion.

55. The involvement of non-governmental organizations and citizen groups increased the capacity to assess environmental problems and identify ways of solving them. The Nordic countries strongly supported the General Assembly's endorsement of the provisions for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Conference.

56. Given the close interrelationship of environmental and development problems, the competence and functions of the various United Nations bodies and agencies in environment matters should be reviewed. The capacity of the United Nations system to respond to environmental problems should be raised, and UNEP should be strengthened, and the capacities of development agencies and financing institutions should be increased so as to respond to those issues. The Nordic countries looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on institutional arrangements, to be considered during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and considered that the Preparatory Committee's Working Group on legal, institutional and all related matters should be established as soon as possible.

57. The availability of additional financial resources and access to environmentally sound technologies would be a major issue in the 1990s. The Nordic

(Mr. Barlund, Finland)

Governments were prepared to consider, jointly with other industrialized countries, additional financing and more transfers of technology to developing countries in order to facilitate the implementation of international environmental agreements and strategies. They regarded the agreement reached under the Montreal Protocol as very promising. That solution did not necessarily apply in all cases of international co-operation, for caution was needed regarding the establishment of separate funds. The London Agreement and the progress made on the World Bank, UNEP UNDP Global Environment Facility demonstrated that it was possible to muster political will and find appropriate solutions where there was clear and compelling evidence to support effective action.

58. Preventive and remedial action was vital and should guide the formulation of policy on climate change. The Second World Climate Conference, held at Geneva, had declared that negotiations would begin on a binding convention on climate change. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the Geneva preparatory meeting on the organization of the negotiating process.

59. The Nordic countries, with a view to the negotiations to be held in Washington, in February 1991, had agreed on measures in four major areas. The first concerned the stabilization and reduction of emissions and the objective of limiting carbon dioxide emissions from industrialized countries to their current level by the year 2000. Programmes for achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by the years 2005 amd 2010 should also be developed. Patterns of energy use and transport should be changed in order to bring about a substantial reduction in the use of fossil fuels and a shift to other forms of energy which were less polluting. In that connection, the Nordic countries looked forward to receiving inputs from the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

60. The second important area concerned a sustainable forest management. The Tropical Forest Action Plan should be reviewed by 1992 and an effective plan established to ensure sustainable management of temperate forests.

61. The third issue dealt with the availability of funding to support the co-operation of developing countries on environmental issues. Studies should be undertaken in order to identify the needs of developing countries and innovative sources of financing must be found. The Nordic countries were fully prepared to participate in international efforts to that end.

62. The fourth area of co-operation, in which the Nordic countries were prepared to participate substantially, concerned further research and monitoring of climate change. The Nordic countries would propose that initial steps in that area should be agreed on at the 1992 Conference. Indeed, if specific targets were not established in Brazil, the credibility of the international community would be compromised.

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(Mr. Barlund, Finland)

63. Both developing and industrialized countries would have to adjust their policies with a view to achieving the sustainable use of natural resources. In developing countries, threats to the environment were most often created by poverty, excessive population growth and the uneven distribution of wealth, which placed a heavy drain on land, water and other natural resources. While such issues would have to be addressed at the national level, assistance from the international community would also be required in order to alleviate poverty. Achieving a viable balance between environment and development would involve fundamental changes in the dynamics and content of international economic life. To that end, confrontation must be replaced by partnership and interdependence.

64. Mr. SELIVONCHIK (Byelorussian SSR) said that his delegation attached great importance to the results of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi in August 1990. At that meeting, the Preparatory Committee had decided on a programme of international co-operation for the period after 1992 and for the beginning of the twenty-first century in accordance with the issues which would be raised at the Conference. A high level of participation in the Conference was also important. Mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident should also be discussed at sessions of the Preparatory Committee, and at the Conference itself which should adopt specific measures for further international co-operation in that area.

65. At the current stage of preparations for the Conference, it was necessary to work out a strategy for protecting the environment, and specific projects should be initiated. In that regard, the regional environmental forums and the measures proposed by UNEP merited attention and support.

66. The Byelorussian SSR supported the specific proposals made by a number of countries in connection with preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Soviet Union's proposal on the establishment of a United Nations centre for emergency environmental assistance should be implemented. The Soviet Union had already begun to form an international team of experts, and had sent the Secretary-General a list of Soviet scientists and specialists which the Soviet Government would be prepared to send, at its own expense, to places designated by the centre. That kind of specific action was a key element in international co-operation to protect the environment at the current stage.

67. Preservation of the environment required considerable expenditure at the country and global levels, and $800 billion would be needed for environmental protection up to the year 2000, a sum roughly equivalent to the expenditure on armaments in a single year. Military production should therefore be reduced and the resources thus released should become a major source of financing for environmental measures. In that regard, the Byelorussian SSR supported the ratification by the Soviet Union and the United States of bilateral agreements on limitation of the yield of underground nuclear weapons tests and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, as well as the relevant protocols on verification.

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(Mr. Selivonchik, Byelorussian SSR)

68. The Byelorussian SSR wished to become a nuclear-free zone and was considering the possibility of acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It was in favour of the eventual creation of a nuclear-free zone which would include the Byelorussian SSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the Baltic Republics, as well as the countries of Central Europe. Since the nuclear-free status of the Byelorussian SSR would affect the strategic interests of many countries, it required a deliberate approach in order to ensure that the steps taken towards the implementation of that goal did not jeopardize anyone's legitimate security interests.

69. In the Byelorussian SSR, the most pressing problem in the area of environmental protection involved the mitigation of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Millions of the Republic's inhabitants had suffered the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, and the Byelorussian Parliament had declared the entire Republic an environmental disaster area. Recent assessments of the state of the environment in the Byelorussian SSR had revealed that vast new areas had been contaminated by radiation, including the Republic's capital, Minsk, with a population of almost 2 million. Additional research was needed to determine the true levels of radioactive contamination in the Republic. Moreover, the use of chemical substances to reduce radiation levels destroyed the ecological balance and aggravated traditional environmental problems.

70. During the recent discussion of the effects of atomic radiation in the Special Political Committee, many delegations had expressed their concerns about the long-term effects of radiation on the global environment. The Special Political Committee had renewed the mandate of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and the Scientific Committee had been requested to continue work on its report on the effects of atomic radiation. The conclusions of that report should be used both in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and at the Conference itself. The Byelorussian SSR was convinced that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/224 should be applied to regions whose environment had been severely degraded by radioactive contamination. His delegation was prepared to co-operate in that area with UNEP, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system.

71. Mr. RAZALI (Malaysia) said that the successful outcome of the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development would depend very much on full implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/228, without which the Conference would be a mere political and ceremonial event.

72. As the world approached the twenty-first century, there had been a sudden realization that current social and economic trends, especially in the developed countries, were not sustainable. Drastic changes and readjustments in social ethics, international co-operation, world trade and economics would be necessary. The world environment would have to be managed properly in order to sustain life. Such strategies and actions for those purposes would need the commitment and co-operation of the international community and all Governments.

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(Mr. Razali, Malaysia)

73. The areas of environmental concern included extensive deforestation and unsustainable land-use patterns: desertification; water and air pollution; depletion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect, wasteful energy consumption and rapid depletion of natural resources. The impacts of such excesses on social and economic development were increasingly evident. Acid rain had caused great damage to temperate forests, the ozone layer was being depleted every year, there was a prediction of global warming with its possible consequence of a rise in sea level which would threaten many of the low-lying States. Changes in the world climate would have serious consequences on the productivity of land and sea.

74. World-wide concern over the environment had drawn considerable international attention to sustainable forest management. While it was true that deforestation contributed to degradation of the global environment, there had been too much focus on the tropical rainforests and inadequate attention paid to deforestation in the temperate countries. There was also a tendency for the issue of the environment to be clouded by emotion and a lack of proper understanding of the issues, and vested interests were also involved. Faced with strong pressure from such groups, a number of developed countries were formulating policies and regulations which were detrimental to the interests of tropical timber, arbitrary, discriminatory and contrary to the provisions of GATT, the spirit of the Uruguay Round and the International Tropical Timber Agreement. They were also counter-productive, in that greater market access would encourage producer countries to conserve their timber for longer-term benefits.

75. Malaysia was fully aware of the need for effective forest management in order to supply timber; enhance environmental stability; provide sanctuary for wildlife; and act as a storehouse of genetic resources. Its awareness was reflected in the decision not to proceed with the Bakun dam project in Sarawak which, while more than meeting the country's energy needs, would have flooded extensive areas of lowland forests. Malaysia had adopted sustainable forest management practices, as was confirmed by the recent ITTO report on forestry in Sarawak.

76. At the recent meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, the ASEAN countries had agreed to contribute to the preparation of a report on forestry, as requested by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The ministers had emphasized that no international instrument on forestry should be concluded without consideration of its impact on developing countries.

77. Forestry and other activities associated with land use accounted for only 9 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, while the developed countries were estimated to contribute about 75 per cent of the greenhouse effect. Although a legal instrument was required in order to prevent global warming, there was a more urgent need to consider a convention on the control and reduction of carbon dioxide emission than a convention on forestry.

78. The International Tropical Timber Organization had a very important role to play in the sustainable management and development of tropical forest resources,

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(Mr. Razali, Malaysia)

and consideration should therefore be given to expanding its role and responsibilities so as to cover also all temperate and boreal forests. Any legally binding instruments such as the proposed global forest convention should not be concluded in haste without taking into consideration their implications for developing countries. Malaysia was concerned about the thrust and pace of discussions on environmental issues in the various forums outside the preparatory process of UNCED. The rush to produce legal instruments was more often the result of domestic political pressure than of an attempt to address the real issue. The preparatory process of UNCED should continue to be the only forum on environmental issues.

79. The developing tropical countries had a moral obligation to reserve vast stretches of land for the purpose of conserving biological diversity. However, the developed countries which had used extensive areas of their own natural forests for industrial development should recognize that they too had a moral obligation *vis-à-vis* those developing countries, to compensate them for the opportunity cost of land set aside in perpetuity for conservation purposes. Furthermore, efforts to conserve biological diversity should also include consideration of the issues of intellectual property rights being discussed at the Uruguay Round and in other organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization. Malaysia was particularly concerned about the prospects of international patents which would be used increasingly to secure a monopoly over genetic resources. Modern biotechnology had opened up a vast new area for exploitation of genetic resources, but the developing countries lacked the expertise and equipment to make use thereof. As a result, biotechnology had tended to focus on the needs of the industrialized countries, and, in particular on reducing their dependence on raw materials imported from developing countries. It was time to develop new biotechnologies which would take into consideration the needs of small-scale agriculture in the developing countries. There was a danger that corporations and institutions in the industrial countries might exploit the genetic diversity of the developing countries as a free resource, patent the products of research and sell them back to the developing countries at excessively high prices. That had to cease, and mechanisms should be set up for effective co-operation with reciprocal benefits as between developed countries rich in technology and developing countries rich in genetic resources.

80. Malaysia welcomed the increasing recognition of the impact that Antarctica exerted on the global environment and ecosystems and urged the international community to continue its efforts to ban prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica and to ensure that all such activities were used exclusively for purposes of peaceful scientific research. The establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or a world park would be the best guarantee against harmful human activities in the region.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
40th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 13 November 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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OTHER MATTERS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/45/25, A/45/663, A/45/666)

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/45/46, A/45/177, A/45/303, A/45/313, A/45/336-S/21385, A/45/345, A/45/361, A/45/584, A/45/598-S/21854, A/45/666)

AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued) (A/45/177, A/45/303, A/45/361, A/45/598-S/21854, A/45/666, A/45/696 and Add.1)

1. Mr. LONGTON (Chile) said that the most tangible demonstration of the international community's consensus on the issue of environmental protection was the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, in implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/228.

2. The report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (A/45/46) on the work of its substantive session, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990, reflected the scope and complexity of the task at hand. The Nairobi meeting was cause for pessimism, because it had not succeeded in integrating the concepts of environment and development in a satisfactory manner, but also for optimism, because problem areas had been identified and the thrust of the Conference had been reviewed.

3. The Secretary-General of the Conference must now prepare considerable documentation for the Preparatory Committee's next session. There was no doubt that he would be able to carry out that task with the support of an extremely competent staff and all organizations of the United Nations.

4. As the theme of the Conference was development and its close ties to the environment, a conceptual mechanism must be identified for integrating environmental factors in development issues. That was why decision 1/25 of the Preparatory Committee stipulated that the Secretary-General of the Conference should underline the close interrelationship between environment and development and ensure that all documents and reports reflected a balance between environment and development. Implementation of that decision would give the Conference the appropriate direction.

5. Preparatory Committee decisions 1/8, on transfer of technology, 1/9, on financial resources, and 1/29, on co-operation on transfer of technology and financial resources to developing countries, also dealt with very important issues. In that connection, his delegation fully endorsed the conclusions of the Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean on Development and the Environment that the mobilization on concessional terms of the resources required for regional development and environmental protection programmes and a commitment from the industrialized countries to ensure the transfer of environmentally sound

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(Mr. Longton, Chile)

technologies on concessional terms must necessarily figure in any joint North-South programme of work. The countries of Latin America were determined to eradicate and reverse the process of environmental degradation, and the industrialized countries must be equally willing to bear their share of the costs of the operation, as the chief perpetrators, and provide financial support for the efforts of the countries of the region.

6. Protection of the global climate for present and future generations was another very important issue. During the current session the General Assembly must identify the modalities for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change, based on recommendations of the negotiating group which had met at Geneva from 24 to 26 September. An instrument should be negotiated as soon as possible that expressed the political will of Governments to tackle the problem resolutely; the instrument should be sufficiently flexible to allow for the drafting of additional protocols. The best approach would be to set up an intergovernmental negotiating committee in which the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) would participate. The financial arrangements should enable all developing countries to participate in the negotiating process with the help of contributions from the developed countries. The negotiations should draw on the carefully prepared reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the General Assembly and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference should be given regular progress reports. His delegation hoped that the convention would be open for signature at the Conference in 1992 and intended to participate actively in its drafting and in the achievement of other environmental objectives as a member of the UNEP Governing Council.

7. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that General Assembly resolution 44/228 clearly identified the task facing the international community. The instructions it contained had been effectively supplemented by the work of the Preparatory Committee during its two sessions in 1990, held in New York and Nairobi.

8. The Preparatory Committee had succeeded in recognizing the relationships between development and environment; breaking the cycles of poverty and environmental degradation was a crucial, but unavoidable, challenge that must be taken up. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of the Conference had set out a list of goals that were bold yet realistic.

9. It was nevertheless regrettable that the Preparatory Committee had failed to reach agreement on the establishment of a third working group to deal with legal, institutional and all related matters, for that group would have an essential role to play - for example in promoting the development of international environmental law, in accordance with paragraph 15 (d) of General Assembly resolution 44/228. The delay in the establishment of the working group might not give that body enough time to carry out its mandate.

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(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

10. At the same time he was pleased to note that the Second World Climate Conference, held recently at Geneva, had been able to adopt a declaration in which it had recognized the potential serious consequences of climate change and had called for constructive measures and early negotiations on a framework convention on climate change. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke strongly believed that the adoption of the framework convention should be one of the tangible outcomes of the 1992 Conference.

11. The convention must provide for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, for it was the cumulation of those gases that threatened to transform the global climate radically and produce a rise in sea level which would threaten the very survival of low-lying and small island States in the South Pacific. For their part, Canada, Australia and New Zealand had each recently adopted ambitious targets to reduce CO_2 emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2000.

12. The three delegations supported the consensus reached at the organizational meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group preparing for negotiations on the convention on climate, held at Geneva in September. While negotiations on the framework convention and Conference preparations should remain separate, it would be useful to have progress reports on the negotiations periodically forwarded to the Conference Preparatory Committee.

13. The Secretary-General of the Conference had been requested to submit a report on key aspects of deforestation and forest use to the Preparatory Committee at its second session. That report should help the Preparatory Committee decide on appropriate action. The Conference might, for example, adopt a code of conduct for the conservation and management of forests until a convention could be prepared.

14. The Conference should also enhance the preservation of the Earth's biological diversity; the ongoing discussions in UNEP on an international legal instrument on that subject were encouraging. Similarly, it was to be hoped that the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on all aspects of the marine environment, including the report of an intergovernmental meeting of experts to be held in Canada on land-based sources of marine pollution, would form the basis of a new way of thinking about protecting the global commons.

15. However, the solution of all those questions would depend on the decisions that would have to be taken on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the creation of mechanisms to provide the developing countries with the necessary financial resources, topics which should be addressed thoroughly in the reports to be prepared for the Preparatory Committee's next session.

16. The question of participation by non-governmental organizations was foremost among the decisions of the Preparatory Committee that required a decision by the General Assembly. The rules set forth in Nairobi should be observed without the slightest derogation. NGOs undeniably had an important role to play in informing the public so that it would modify its behaviour and consumption patterns. That was why the three delegations had stressed the need to analyse the state of

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

environmental education and elaborate recommendations for the promotion of such education.

17. The Preparatory Committee had also recommended to the General Assembly that it should decide, at its forty-fifth session, that States should be represented at the Conference at the level of Head of State or Government. As the 1992 Conference might well be the most important of the decade, that level of representation was fully justified.

18. Speaking on behalf of New Zealand only, he then took up the issue of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing. The international community had recognized the harmful effects of such fishing on living resources in the resolution which the General Assembly had adopted by consensus the year before (44/225). As a result of that resolution, the number of vessels deploying large-scale pelagic drift-nets in the South Pacific had already dropped and two nations, the Republic of Korea and Japan, had decided to cease deploying them altogether. Unfortunately, Taiwan remained determined to dispatch driftnet fishing vessels, despite the warnings issued by regional intergovernmental meetings. States which practised distant-water fishing in the region were urged to become parties to the protocols to the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift Nets in the South Pacific, which had been adopted on 24 November 1989 in Wellington. The report of the Secretary-General on that question (A/45/663), which highlighted the danger to the long-term sustainability of certain large stocks and the risk of by-catches of marine mammals and sea birds, was quite convincing regarding the need for the Convention.

19. In addition to the excellent report of the Secretary-General, it should be noted that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference had requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit a detailed report to it, together with recommendations on the impact of large-scale harvesting and fishing techniques incompatible with the sustainable management of living marine resources. The report should facilitate the adoption of measures by the Conference which would guarantee the rational use of all living marine resources.

20. New Zealand, which had been a member of the Governing Council of UNEP since the beginning of the year, was satisfied with the important decisions taken at the recent special session and believed that they would enable UNEP to provide effective input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Executive Director of UNEP had been requested to prepare a comprehensive report on measures which could be taken to strengthen the role of UNEP. His delegation looked forward to that report with great interest.

21. Mr. FORTIER (Canada), reaffirming the importance which his country attached to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, stressed that it should result in the signature of a framework convention on climate change. That had been a subject of in-depth discussions at the General Assembly and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Second World Climate Conference had agreed that the ultimate objective was to stabilize greenhouse gas

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concentrations, and some participants, including Canada, had made commitments to take measures to ensure that the concentration of carbon dioxide by the year 2000 would not exceed 1990 levels. The Conference had also agreed that climate change was a global problem requiring a common but differentiated response. Additional financial resources must therefore be mobilized and environmentally sound technologies must be transferred without delay to developing countries.

22. Canada, for its part, was firmly committed to international co-operation for sustainable development and had announced a contribution of $1 million to the WMO Special Fund for Climate Studies. It had also worked diligently to establish - and was already contributing to - a fund to assist developing countries in phasing out chemicals which destroyed the ozone layer.

23. With respect to defining modalities for the negotiation of a convention on climate change, his delegation supported the recommendations adopted by consensus by the Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations. A single negotiating body should be established at a relatively high level and should have the appropriate technical expertise. It should report to the General Assembly on its progress. Non-governmental organizations and representatives of industrial sectors particularly concerned by climate change issues should participate in it. The body should also inform the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of its activities.

24. Concerning large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/225, had supported moratoria on all operations to take effect no later than 30 June 1992. His delegation espoused the principles on which the resolution was based - conservation and management of living marine resources not only on the high seas but also within exclusive economic zones.

25. Enhanced scientific co-operation in certain regions, such as the South Pacific where Japan had decided to suspend its large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing operations, was to be commended. None the less, attempts would be made to circumvent the provisions of resolution 44/225, particularly by developing drift-net fishing in other areas of the high seas. The international community must ensure the full implementation of the resolution. In that connection, his delegation was pleased to announce that Canada intended to host an international meeting in June 1991 to review available scientific data on the impact of such fishing in the North Pacific. As large-scale drift-net fishing was neither economically nor environmentally sustainable, new ways of managing living marine resources of the global commons must be developed. In that regard, the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General of the Conference on Environment and Development on various fishing methods and technologies would be very useful.

26. At the second special session, the Governing Council of UNEP had provided guidance for action on certain priority issues, such as the depletion of the ozone layer, climate change, hazardous wastes and biodiversity. As UNEP had participated directly in the conclusion of agreements on the protection of the ozone layer and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, its contribution to the 1992

(Mr. Fortier, Canada)

Conference would be essential. His delegation fully supported the work of the Programe, particularly with respect to land-based sources of marine pollution and, in collaboration with UNEP, was preparing an intergovernmental meeting of experts, to be held in Canada in the spring of 1991 in order to study the problem.

27. Mr. de ALBA (Mexico) said that his country attached particular importance to environmental protection and was taking ambitious measures in that field. Currently, it devoted $2.5 billion, with the assistance of the Japanese Government and the World Bank, to controlling air pollution in Mexico City.

28. As part of its involvement in the international environmental movement, Mexico would host the regional preparatory meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

29. His delegation wished to stress a number of specific points relating to the preparation of the Conference. First of all, it was essential to maintain a clear and explicit balance between strictly environmental aspects and those which were related to development.

30. Referring to the modalities of the negotiations in progress, he said that it would be important to ensure the participation of all Governments, in view of the international nature of environmental issues.

31. In future negotiations on such questions as climate change, biodiversity and deforestation control, participation and the adequate representation of countries must also be guaranteed. With respect to climate change, the intergovernmental group of experts had carried out important work and, in the next phase, the General Assembly must decide on specific orientations for the international negotiation of the appropriate instruments. The international community would thus have the necessary elements to act decisively.

32. The best means of ensuring universality, transparency and adequate representation was to entrust those negotiations to an organ of the General Assembly with an ad hoc secretariat. That organ must receive scientific support from IPCC and other organizations of the United Nations.

33. In Mexico, environmental protection was based on the principle that "polluters must pay". At the international level, that principle was apparent in the allocation of responsibilities for past and present environmental damage.

34. The various preparatory and negotiation processes had highlighted another issue: the need for new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to solve their environmental problems. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the recent agreements reached at the Conference on Saving the Ozone Layer held in London, and at the Second World Climate Conference.

35. It had also been recognized that, in order to achieve an optimal solution to local and global environmental problems, environmentally sound technologies would

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(Mr. de Alba, Mexico)

have to be transferred without delay. Failure to do so would prevent developing countries from participating actively in international environmental protection efforts. In view of the extraordinary efforts which the preparations for the Conference required of all participating countries, developed and developing alike, the General Assembly should provide the necessary means to handle the extra work.

36. With regard to biological diversity, the question of biotechnology should be the subject of a convention on the conservation and utilization of biological diversity that would place the two issues on the same level. Mexico would work towards the adoption of a convention on that item at the 1992 Conference.

37. In conclusion, he said that the question of the environment provided an opportunity to conduct positive negotiations whose results would promote economic development and the progress of humanity.

38. Mrs. PERKOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that Assembly resolution 44/228 had represented a breakthrough in international understanding of environmental problems and of the need to strengthen international co-operation. The resolution, which had been adopted by consensus, represented a delicate balance that must not be disrupted by calling into question the general principles on which the preparatory process for the conference should rest. The principles concerning the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries and flows of new and additional financial resources to those countries were vital to the successful integration of developing countries into endeavours to ensure sustainable development.

39. With regard to preparations for the Conference, her delegation welcomed the results of the second special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which had been largely devoted to priority environmental issues. Those results would undoubtedly facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee. At its first meeting in August 1990, that Committee had adopted a number of important decisions, but it should be noted that its decision 1/3 on the operations of the voluntary fund for the Conference was not fully in accordance with resolution 44/228.

40. During its current session, the General Assembly would have to take certain decisions relating to the Conference. There should be no difficulty in setting the date of the Conference and the dates of the meetings of the Preparatory Committee. Her delegation fully supported the Preparatory Committee's proposal regarding the level of representation of States. It would be useful to ensure broad participation by non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Conference, steps should be taken to ensure equitable representation of such organizations from developed and developing countries and a balance between those with an environmental focus and those with a development focus. The General Assembly would have to agree on the rules to be applied to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process.

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(Mrs. Perkovic, Yugoslavia)

41. On the issue of protection of the global climate, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had highlighted the dangers of climate change for the environment. It was therefore important to expedite the work on that item. The Second World Climate Conference which had just taken place in Geneva had recognized the desirability of a framework convention on the issue. It was therefore essential to begin by agreeing on a negotiation process and initiating the negotiations without delay so that the convention would be ready for the 1992 Conference.

42. Regional co-operation was an essential aspect of environmental protection. It was therefore only natural that the regional economic commissions of the United Nations should participate in preparations for the Conference. The results of the ministerial-level Bergen Conference, held in May 1990, should be useful in that respect. Mention should also be made of the many meetings held in Europe, particularly the CSCE conference on the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean, as well as the Dublin Conference. Representatives of the Balkan countries had recently met in Tirana, Albania, and had stressed the importance of signing a regional convention on environmental protection in the Balkans in the near future.

43. In conclusion, she pointed out that Yugoslavia had incorporated environmental protection into its development policy, was encouraging environmental protection through financial and tax measures and was drafting legislation in that area. It had also ratified the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and was in the process of ratifying the Montreal Protocol.

44. Mr. PEREZ (Philippines) said that the harmony that had once existed between man and nature had been disturbed, bringing the planet to the verge of catastrophe. However, since men were rational creatures, they were capable of learning lessons from the past before it was too late. Thus, the United Nations Environment Programme had been established following the Stockholm Conference on the Environment in 1972. Both UNEP and the World Commission on Environment and Development were inviting Governments to consider environmental protection as an integral part of economic growth and development. The Government of the Philippines appreciated the continuing efforts of various United Nations agencies and fully endorsed the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. It was critical that the international community should co-ordinate its activities for environmental protection and for sustainable and environmentally sound development. Those two objectives should be balanced and vigorously pursued. It was abundantly clear that the developed countries had, over the years, been the principal contributors to the degradation of the environment.

45. The Philippine Government accepted its responsibilities and was prepared to make sacrifices; the Senate had recently approved a bill totally banning commercial logging in the country for an initial period of two years. The determination to arrest the depletion of forests and to preserve the precious patrimony of the Philippine people, as well as the world-wide clamour for environmental protection, had prompted the Philippine Senate to take that action in spite of the adverse effects it would have on the country's economy, in terms of loss of employment for

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(Mr. Perez, Philippines)

the thousands of Philippine workers in the lumber industry and related industries, the need to find other, probably more costly building materials and loss of foreign exchange from the export of wood products.

46. Environmental protection knew no limits. The very rapid growth of the world's population and the spread of new technologies could only magnify the impact of each additional billion persons on the environment in terms of greenhouse gases, deforestation, depletion of the ozone layer, extinction of animal and plant species, etc. Without effective co-operation, the outlook for developing countries would be bleak. The world economy ran on fossil fuels, which generated greenhouse gases. Weaning the world from those fuels would be a long and costly process. In the mean time, since developing countries had no other sources of energy, they had to depend on fossil fuels for their development. It was necessary to find pragmatic solutions and the financial means to pursue them; in particular, it was essential to continue to develop less polluting forms of energy and to make them available to developing countries. The consequences of the greenhouse effect were well known. Global warming and the partial melting of the polar ice-caps could cause the sea level to rise and inundate broad areas of land, particularly in South-East Asia, where some of the world's richest agricultural lands were located. Those countries did not have adequate resources to deal with such a disaster.

47. Marine resources were also being depleted by the uncontrolled disposal of toxic wastes and detritus in rivers and oceans, even in the high seas. The people of the Philippines lived on an archipelago of 7,000 islands and therefore attached great importance to the preservation of marine resources. The livelihood of millions of Filipinos depended on those resources. However, fishing resources were progressively waning and the size of the catches was diminishing. He therefore emphasized the need to protect the world's marine environment. Fishing methods and contrivances that wantonly destroyed marine life must be banned by international agreements.

48. All those examples illustrated, first, the existence of a close link between the environment and sustainable development and, second, the need for global co-operation, particularly between developed and developing countries. On the one hand, the developed countries, which were still the major sources of pollution, should not shirk their responsibilities. Their policies and practices should be aimed at creating an economic climate that would favour the conservation of ecological resources. On the other hand, economic growth and rational development in developing countries were also essential to solving environmental degradation problems. Additional financial resources would therefore be required. Everyone was concerned about preserving the world's forests, but people who had no other livelihood were forced to burn ancient and precious trees in order to plant the crops that would enable them to feed themselves and their children. The same was true of marine resources. It was obvious that poverty and environmental degradation went hand in hand.

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49. The developing countries would like to solve the problem through improved economic and social programmes, but his Government assigned 45 per cent of the national budget to debt servicing, even though it was already having great difficulty meeting the needs of over 60 million people. The oil bill had just risen sharply and was equal to the debt-servicing burden, as a result of which his Government now faced a grave dilemma: it could either stop payment on its debt or stop importing oil and risk economic paralysis. Thus the fundamental problem was how to save the environment without inhibiting growth. The only conceivable way out was through the assistance of the international community, which could, for example, set aside financial resources for environmental co-operation and help developing countries to obtain environmentally safe technology. One approach would be to implement debt-for-nature swap arrangements, possibly with the co-operation of specialized non-governmental organizations.

50. The Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had already formulated recommendations. However, it was necessary to continue reflecting on ways to solve the problems of developing countries, i.e., poverty, debt, negative financial resource flows, deteriorating terms of trade, trade-distorting mechanisms created by protectionism and all the problems linked to the cost of energy. All those difficulties prevented them from contributing fully to global efforts to protect the environment. The harmony of man with nature, impaired, must be restored and a true covenant made. Those were the conditions for survival.

51. Mrs. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there was a growing consensus that the entire international community should take decisive steps to protect the environment without delay.

52. With respect to the preparations for the 1992 Conference, it was important to remember that the Preparatory Committee, which would have to solve many complex problems, could function effectively only if its members demonstrated the necessary political will and spirit of co-operation. It would also have to abide by the provisions of resolution 44/228, which laid down several important principles.

53. The Soviet Union welcomed the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that States should be represented at the highest levels at the 1992 Conference and hoped that the General Assembly would adopt that recommendation. Also, it would be inconceivable for national and international environmental protection organizations not to participate in the preparations for the Conference. The development of environmental law and the strengthening of the institutional framework for co-operation would be among the essential tasks of the Conference. That was why her country hoped that the Preparatory Committee would reach a decision as quickly as possible concerning the mandate of Working Group III on legal and institutional matters.

54. Given the short time remaining, the Conference secretariat bore a particular responsibility. The first session of the Preparatory Committee had enabled Mr. Strong to demonstrate his talents, and the documents being prepared for the

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second session should provide a wealth of information and recommendations and figure in the final document.

55. The work accomplished by UNEP, particularly at the second special session of the Governing Council, was extremely useful. It would be advisable to strengthen its role as a catalyst and co-ordinator of environmental protection efforts within the United Nations context. By working closely and constructively with the Preparatory Committee and the Conference secretariat, it would contribute substantially to preparations for the 1992 Conference, particularly in the efforts to prevent depletion of the ozone layer, to draft a convention on biological diversity and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in forecasting threats to the environment. UNEP and the Conference preparation mechanism should co-ordinate their activities in order to avoid duplication. Given the new trends in co-operation for protecting the environment on the eve of the twenty-first century, attention should be given concurrently in the preparations for the Conference to strengthening the role of UNEP.

56. With respect to the work of UNEP in the immediate future, her delegation was interested in the possibility of establishing a United Nations centre for emergency environmental assistance.

57. One of UNEP's main activities was its co-operation in tackling the man-made ecological disaster in the Aral Sea region, a tragedy that had serious implications for the health, atmosphere, climate, flora and fauna of the region. The leaders of the Soviet Republics of Central Asia had submitted to the Supreme Soviet a draft national programme for restoring ecological balance in the region in which United Nations specialized agencies and other specialized organizations would participate. The problem, far exceeding the nation's capacity, had been the subject of a round-table discussion in which UNEP, UNESCO, WHO and eminent Soviet and foreign scientists had participated. The Soviet Union placed great hopes in an international project which would be executed under the auspices of UNEP. The experience thus gained could also be of great use to other countries.

58. Multilateral co-operation for protecting the environment was equally important in the area of climatic changes. It was encouraging to see that international efforts in that area were increasing and that the Second World Climate Conference had produced interesting results. A framework agreement on climate and related protocols should be developed as soon as possible for adoption at the 1992 Conference. Efforts should be aimed not only at developing a scientific and legal framework but also at involving the greatest possible number of States in the drafting of the convention.

59. It was to be hoped that, during its current session, the General Assembly would be able to take practical decisions by consensus on protection of the environment.

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60. Mr. VALLENILLA (Venezuela) said that his country attached particular importance to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and hoped that it would be successful, despite the difficult tasks ahead. Although the environmental problems were of a global nature, the industrialized countries bore a special responsibility in combating environmental degradation.

61. Venezuela's institutional machinery for preserving, protecting and improving its environment was of long-standing. The Ministry of the Environment had been in operation for more than 15 years. It was very difficult to achieve a balance between economic growth and environmental protection when appropriate resources and technologies were lacking. It was in that light that the close relationship between environment and development, recognized in resolution 44/228, must be viewed.

62. The wide range of decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first substantive session attested to the importance and complexity of the undertaking. Although the relationship between environment and development was not always treated in a balanced manner, the Preparatory Committee, in its decision 1/25, had identified several factors which highlighted that relationship.

63. Some questions, such as the transfer of technology and financial resources, did not seem to have been discussed in depth even though they were of interest primarily to the developing countries and would ultimately ensure those countries' full participation in the global movement for environmental protection.

64. Venezuela hoped, however, that resolution 44/228 would enable environmental and developmental issues to be addressed fully and simultaneously. The developed countries must be prepared to take parallel decisions on strictly environmental issues and matters relating to development. The preparatory work should therefore be supported by UNEP, WMO and other United Nations bodies like UNCTAD.

65. The Preparatory Committee had left several questions pending, one being the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They could make a very significant contribution but, in accordance with section II, paragraph 12, resolution 44/228, participation should be restricted to NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It should be clearly stated, moreover, that NGOs did not have a negotiating role. Their participation in the Conference must be on the basis of an equitable distribution of NGOs as between developing countries and those from developed countries.

66. The question of follow-up to resolution 44/207, on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind, was also important. Climate change concerned mankind as a whole, and additional research and scientific studies must be carried out on all sources, causes and effects of such change. Venezuela had already said that the Conference secretariat should conduct a thorough comparative analysis of the various scientific positions held in that regard.

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(Mr. Vallenilla, Venezuela)

67. At the conclusion of the studies carried out in pursuance of resolution 44/207, it had been recommended that a framework convention should be prepared on climate change. Venezuela had taken part in the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to prepare for negotiations on that convention. The Group had submitted 20 recommendations to the General Assembly. Since the negotiations must commence without delay, Venezuela was gratified that the United States Government had offered to host the first meeting of the negotiating body. In Venezuela's view, it should be a specialized conference with the participation of the competent United Nations bodies. The negotiating process, which would be under United Nations auspices, must be open to all countries. In addition, bodies competent in matters of the environment, development and international co-operation, as well as UNCTAD, should participate in the secretariat.

68. Miss HASSAN (Egypt) said that the world was witnessing not only a turning-point in history, but also the emergence of a new academic discipline - the politics of environment. On that front, the United Nations was merely echoing what was happening outside its own walls. The latest changes had confirmed the importance of the interdependence of nations. That concept was intrinsically linked to that of collective responsibility, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations adopted 45 years before. Protection of the environment, which was not a new challenge, bestowed new dimensions on the concept of collective responsibility, and that would inevitably affect the structure, orientation and priorities of the United Nations. It was therefore unfortunate, given the deteriorating state of the environment, that the swing of the pendulum signalling the imminence of danger should be accompanied by similar fluctuations in the will of nations to adopt serious and concrete measures. The feverish attention given to the issue of the environment was directed towards procedural and institutional aspects to the detriment of substantive questions. The 1992 Conference on environment and development would no doubt lead to a restructuring of the United Nations in that field.

69. It should be noted that the signatories of the Charter had made a clear distinction between collective responsibility for peace and security, which had led to the establishment of the Security Council with its unique composition, and collective responsibility in international co-operation, which placed all nations, large and small, on an equal footing within the Economic and Social Council. That raised the question of the relationship between the concept of responsibility and the definition of criteria for representation in the United Nations. When it came to environmental issues, the concept of responsibility acquired additional connotations, since pollution was in most cases a transboundary issue, and every State was therefore responsible to the international community for solving the environmental problems it caused. It must therefore commit itself to reducing or eliminating pollution; in United Nations documents, that was reflected in the idea of the rich helping the poor by providing them with the resources and technologies that would enable them to solve their environmental problems. Likewise, criteria must be defined as a function of the issue at hand and must be consistent with United Nations norms and practices such as equitable geographical distribution and equality between nations. Additional criteria might also be proposed, such as

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(Miss Hassan, Egypt)

responsibility determined by the extent of the pollution, responsibility to transfer technologies by virtue of the scientific development of a country, extent of the damage incurred and imminence of environmental dangers. Those criteria would determine the financial contribution to co-operation activities, the point being that, given Member States' financial obligations under the Charter (scale of assessments) based on their capacity to pay, the financial contribution to collective environmental protection should also be determined on the basis of those criteria.

70. Needless to say, Egypt was not indifferent to environmental problems. Its geographical situation exposed it to three kinds of danger: it shared the problems of the North African countries bordering on the Mediterranean, the problems of the African countries - mainly in the area of water resources - and the problems of the countries bordering on the Red Sea. The most serious danger came from sea-level rise, which would have the effect of flooding the Nile delta. That explained the considerable importance attached by Egypt to the strengthening of international co-operation. It hoped that all Member States would be able to look beyond the short term, that negotiations would prove that issues like sovereignty, responsibility and commitment really mattered, that mankind could live up to the challenge ahead, and finally that the United Nations would be able to emerge from its second embryonic phase with sustained credibility in helping to ensure the survival of mankind.

71. Mr. ROKOTUIUVUNA (Fiji) said that while it was desirable to emphasize the environment, the development component of the "environment and development" equation must not be neglected. His delegation was apprehensive about the effects of the bureaucratic maze which had developed, riding the popular wave of the environmental crisis. Resources thus were being diverted to unproductive administrative purposes, whereas organizations should instead be streamlined.

72. The first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showed clearly that action must be taken soon, even if absolutely conclusive scientific data were not yet available, if global suicide was to be avoided. For island countries, the rise in sea-level posed a stark threat to the inhabitants' survival. Early action substantially to reduce greenhouse gases was therefore imperative. Although the 1972 Stockholm Conference had focused primarily on the environment, the work of the World Commission on Environment and Development and its report ("Our Common Future") had restored the organic link between environment and development to its rightful place. That relationship should feature more prominently in the preparatory work for the 1992 Conference.

73. There could be no doubt that the primary cause of the sad state of the environment and the potential for further degradation were the pollution-inducing production and consumption systems of the industrialized countries. It was therefore from those countries that the major effort - financial, technical and political - must come, and it was essential to avoid imposing any form of "conditionality" on developing countries, tying assistance to certain environmental actions, for example, with regard to the question of tropical timbers.

(Mr. Rokotuiuvuna, Fiji)

74. The countries in the Pacific had been shamefully exploited for over 150 years. It was to be hoped that such exploitation would have stopped by now, but the region was still a site for nuclear tests, the incineration of chemical stockpiles, the dumping of toxic and other wastes at sea and fishing with large drift-nets. While there had been some progress - fishing with large drift-nets had now been halted - his delegation in general believed that the desires and views of the inhabitants of the region should be taken more fully into account. Nuclear tests were of great concern to the people of the South Pacific because of their impact on ocean resources and on the atmosphere. Conducted for over 30 years, such tests had made some island groups uninhabitable. Attempts to rehabilitate them had been successful. While nuclear tests were now being conducted underground, there could be no doubt that nature's ability to absorb their impact was not unlimited. His delegation therefore would like to see all nuclear tests stopped once and for all. Lastly, the protection of the global climate for present and future generations must be given the highest priority by the international community. What was for some only an academic issue was for others a matter of survival.

75. Mr. JIN Yongjian (China) said that the name of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development itself suggested that the international community had arrived at a deeper understanding of environmental issues. Nearly 20 years after the Stockholm Conference, the international community was more aware of the close link between environmental degradation and the development process and of the need to consider the two issues together. The Conference should not merely adopt legal instruments on the environment, but should also promote international co-operation on the environment and development. Only in that manner would it faithfully reflect the spirit of General Assembly resolution 44/228.

76. The same spirit also should guide the consideration of specific environmental issues. The environmental problems of the developed countries were mainly the result of industrialization and excessive consumption of non-renewable resources. The result was a problem of global dimensions that threatened the human environment. In the developing countries, on the other hand, environmental problems were caused primarily by underdevelopment, as reflected in poverty and excessive population growth. Accordingly, if international environmental legislation was formulated without taking into consideration the specific conditions and needs of the developing countries, international co-operation for development would suffer and the developing countries would be unable to participate, which would impede the implementation of legal instruments. It was therefore necessary, in order to ensure the co-ordination of economic development and environmental protection, to provide the developing countries with new and additional financial resources and to transfer environmentally sound technologies on a favourable basis, as called for in General Assembly resolution 44/228.

77. With regard to the negotiations on legal instruments on environmental protection which were under way or about to start, the Preparatory Committee should ensure that those negotiations were consistent with the theme and principles of the 1992 Conference. The Committee also should devote attention to research on interdisciplinary issues such as additional financial resources and the transfer of

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(Mr. Jin Yongjian, China)

technologies. Those should be the responsibility of the third working group to be established by the Committee. If the various parties could reach a consensus in that regard, his delegation would be flexible as to the date for the establishment of the third working group.

78. General Assembly resolution 44/228 specifically envisaged the participation of non-governmental organizations. However, since there were so many NGOs, selection criteria and procedures must be established for those which were not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

79. Global climate change required concerted action by the international community. According to the report of the Scientific Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, developed countries produced 75 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions, while the developing countries produced only 25 per cent. Developed countries therefore should take the lead in reducing such emissions. Co-operation between developed and developing countries also should be strengthened, and the developed countries should provide additional financial resources on concessional terms.

80. His Government would participate in a constructive manner in the negotiations on a framework convention on climate change, which should suggest effective measures to provide additional concessional financial resources and transfer environmentally sound technologies on non-commercial terms. The negotiation process should ensure the participation of the entire international community and, in particular, of the developing countries. It was not desirable to negotiate the framework convention and the protocols at the same time. The framework convention should be elaborated first and the protocols should then be prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the convention. Non-governmental organizations should participate in the negotiations, in conformity with the relevant United Nations instruments.

81. His delegation welcomed the ministerial declaration adopted by consensus at the Second World Climate Conference. It should be implemented in earnest.

OTHER MATTERS

82. The Chairman announced that Yemen had become a sponsor of the draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/C.2/45/L.16) and that Canada and Ireland had become sponsors of the draft resolution on prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/C.2/45/L.25).

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
41st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 13 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. PAPADATOS	(Greece)
later:	Mr. AMAZIANE	(Morocco)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a request from a non-governmental organization, the Lutheran World Federation, to address the Committee under the cluster of agenda items 79, 80 and 81, on behalf of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO), in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. He had discussed the matter with the Bureau, which considered that it would be acceptable, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to allow that non-governmental organization to address the Committee at its forty-first meeting. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that suggestion.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 79: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/45/25, A/45/663, A/45/666)

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/45/46, A/45/177, A/45/303, A/45/313, A/45/336-S/21385, A/45/345, A/45/361, A/45/584, A/45/598-S/21854, A/45/666)

AGENDA ITEM 81: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued) (A/45/177, A/45/303, A/45/361, A/45/598-S/21854, A/45/666, A/45/696 and Add.1)

3. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan), referring to the report of the Governing Council of UNEP on the work of its second special session (A/45/25), said that his delegation was pleased that Japan's proposal to support UNEP in establishing a centre to provide a technical information database, training and consulting services had been welcomed by many delegations and the Executive Director of UNEP.

4. Turning to agenda item 80, he said that it was gratifying that the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was taking on a co-ordinating role for activities, particularly concerning forest issues, that had previously been undertaken by FAO, UNEP and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) under their separate mandates and at the risk of some duplication. The forestry issue must continue to be discussed in the Preparatory Committee if a positive outcome was to be achieved, and Japan wished to participate even more actively in that debate.

5. The first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committee had been fruitful, but in order to implement its decisions and prepare the output of the Conference in the limited time available, it was important to make full use of the results of ongoing international environmental protection efforts. Although a large number of issues would inevitably be raised during the preparatory process, the focus should be on finding practical solutions to specific problems and on setting up Working

Group III as soon as possible. A starting-point would be those terms of reference on which agreement could be reached at the outset, to which others could be added, if necessary.

6. Turning to agenda item 81, he said that global warming posed a serious threat, and his Government therefore welcomed the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference. In order to control carbon dioxide emissions, it was essential to set targets and also to draw up a plan based on specific measures. Japan took pride in having the highest level of energy efficiency of any major industrialized country, and the lowest ratio of carbon dioxide emissions per GDP: in October 1990 it had established an Action Plan to Arrest Global Warming, setting the year 2000 as the target for stabilizing such emissions at the present per capita level, and ordering action to stabilize total CO_2 emissions from the year 2000 onwards at about their 1990 level by means of innovative technologies, such as those related to solar hydrogen. An important component of the Action Plan was the promotion of international co-operation, e.g. by extending official development assistance and technology transfers to developing countries.

7. His delegation believed that the framework convention on climate change should be ready for signing by June 1992. It had been suggested that an implementation protocol on climate change should be completed by that date but, if the protocol was to be truly realistic and effective, it might not be productive to set a deadline for the time being. That view had also been taken by his Government at the G-7 Houston Summit.

8. Japan had also advocated the formulation of a comprehensive long-term programme, which might be called "New Earth 21", the aim of which would be to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through global co-operation and to ensure that, over the next 100 years, the planet recovered from its current environmental problems. Technological breakthroughs would be critical for the success of such a programme, as would measures taken in a context of global partnership, such as promoting energy efficiency, reforestation, and the expanded development and use of new and renewable sources of energy. He stressed the importance of such comprehensive, long-term policies, to be implemented in parallel with short-term measures, and urged all countries to join in the great endeavour.

9. On the issue of large-scale driftnet fishing, his Government, one of the main supporters of General Assembly resolution 44/225, was basically of the view that high seas driftnet fishing was consistent with the conservation of resources if appropriate conservation and management measures were taken. It had thus made the regulation of that fishing procedure of its nationals more stringent and had made greater efforts to co-operate with the nations concerned in collecting and sharing statistically reliable scientific data, with due respect for the relevant provisions of resolution 44/225. An improved scientific observer programme, formulated jointly by Japan, Canada and the United States, was being carried out on board Japanese fishing vessels.

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(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

10. The report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/45/663) was a useful attempt to collate all the information available, but it failed to provide a comprehensive overview of the measures already taken, or about to be taken, for the conservation and management of living marine resources relating to that fishing procedure, although they were referred to in passing in its various sections. It was very important to review the state of conservation and management as a whole, with a view to suggesting the direction that such measures should take in the long term.

11. Furthermore, the report gave no indication of the relative reliability of the various data derived from reports voluntarily submitted to the Secretary-General. While acknowledging that solid data were not yet available, his delegation felt that the report could have presented what data there were in a more meaningful way, as, for example, in the case of the results of the 1989 observer programme conducted jointly by Japan, Canada and the United States, referred to in paragraph 96 of the report. In that connection, his delegation was basically skeptical about the reliability and usefulness of past efforts to collect data relating to that method of fishing. For example, it rejected the argument that information obtained on driftnet operations in coastal waters should be applied indiscriminately to operations on the high seas. It thus regarded some of the data quoted, such as the rate of interception of marine mammals in paragraph 61, as insignificant and rather misleading. Given the very provisional nature of those data, the joint scientific observation programme being conducted was of vital importance.

12. The indiscriminatory use of information of varying reliability had resulted in inconsistencies in the report. Paragraphs 58, 88, 96 and 98 contained conflicting information and his Government wished to make it clear that the by-catch of salmon by Japanese driftnet fishing vessels was estimated to be statistically negligible.

13. The references to the various measures taken to regulate that fishing procedure was gratifying. The statements in paragraphs 74, 89 and 90 were in line with his Government's position concerning driftnet fishing. The general principle that control of fishing and enforcement of regulatory measures were the primary means of keeping resources at a sustainable yield level applied equally to driftnet fishing and also to by-catches of marine mammals. Driftnet fishing must be controlled in such a way that, when a by-catch was unavoidable, it was kept to an acceptable level.

14. The report also contained a large number of factual errors and misleading descriptions. The statement in paragraph 83 that Japan prohibited the use of large driftnets within its 200-mile zone was incorrect: large driftnet fishing for albacore was permitted. The statement in paragraphs 123 and 139 that Japan had taken measures to prohibit large-scale driftnet fishing in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans was misleading in that it implied that Japan had halted such operations, whereas there had never been any Japanese operations of that kind in those areas. Paragraph 25 was also very misleading in that the decision referred to therein did

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

not relate primarily to driftnet fishing, but to purse-seine fishing for yellow-fin tuna associated with dolphin, a method employed mainly in North America and parts of Latin America, not in Japan.

15. His Government had repeatedly emphasized the importance of discussing the issue of driftnet fishing on a scientific basis. The present report lacked statistically reliable data and hence concluded that it was not for the time being possible to provide a sound scientific analysis of many important issues relevant to the subject. The scientific research programmes conducted by Japan both alone and jointly with Canada and the United States could be expected to provide a basis for adopting effective conservation and management measures, in conformity with resolution 44/225, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 (a).

16. Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil) said that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 would perhaps prove to be the most important international meeting of the twentieth century. He hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that States should be represented at the Conference at the Heads of State and Government level. Brazil, the host country, would provide all requisite facilities for the work of the Conference.

17. Environmental protection involved fundamental rethinking of development and must seek to eliminate abuses in the life-style of industrial society. Whereas market forces in industrialized countries might provide sufficient impetus towards a better environment, in less affluent societies they could cause severe damage and even destruction of the environment. International co-operation must therefore mean more than traditional assistance to developing countries.

18. Environmental challenges should not be seen purely from a technical or scientific perspective: the environment was linked to almost every aspect of contemporary economic life. The lack of conclusive scientific evidence on the effects of certain activities or phenomena was perhaps the best argument for concerted action to achieve a more efficient pattern of development. That was particularly true with regard to climate change. The most striking conclusion reached by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and also by a large body of opinion, was that the decisions required could not be postponed.

19. At its current session the General Assembly was expected to launch the negotiating process of a framework convention on climate. No effort should be spared to have that convention adopted and signed by a large number of countries at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Climate change could be effected as a global issue only with full participation of all countries in the negotiations. The negotiating process should draw on the contributions of the whole spectrum of United Nations scientific and economic agencies. An independent ad hoc secretariat should serve the negotiating mechanism, with the assistance of the specialized agencies.

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(Mr. Maycock, Barbados)

25. Non-governmental organizations could make an important contribution by ensuring broad public involvement in the efforts of the Preparatory Committee. The General Assembly should therefore agree on more long-term arrangements to facilitate the access of interested and competent non-governmental organizations to preparations for the Conference on environment and development.

26. Barbados was concerned at the danger posed to the environment by large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, and that concern had grown following reports suggesting that some members of the international community might be actively seeking to expand large-scale pelagic driftnet operations into new areas, including the North Atlantic. Such action was in violation of the spirit and the letter of General Assembly resolution 44/225, and his delegation called for immediate measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of that resolution.

27. The prospect of global warming directly affected the development and survival of small island countries like Barbados. Such countries would be among the first to experience the effects of sea-level rise; indeed, tidal surges, which were already occurring with increasing ferocity, might be one of the warning signs of that phenomenon. The predicted increases in average global temperature would bring about fundamental changes in delicate ecosystems such as coral reefs. The prospect of larger and more severe tropical hurricanes raised the spectre of the wholesale destruction of everything that years of painstaking development had achieved.

28. Barbados attached priority concern to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In its decision SS.II/3 B, the UNEP Governing Council called upon the Panel to take all appropriate steps to ensure the effective participation of developing countries and small island States in its future work. Those principles should also govern the work of the open-ended working group on the framework convention on climate change. Barbados fully supported the conclusion of the Second World Climate Conference that work on the framework convention on climate change should not be delayed.

29. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) said that while many of the small island States of the South Pacific had contributed little or nothing to the build-up of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere, they could be among those most adversely affected by its potential impacts. Sea-level rise at the rate predicted could destroy many island communities, changes in ocean currents would affect food supplies and the increased frequency of extreme weather events could reduce the number of inhabitable islands.

30. In its response to climate change, his Government had recently decided to adopt an interim planning target, based on 1988 levels, to reduce greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, by 20 per cent by the year 2005.

31. The framework convention on climate change should address the problem of global warming in an effective way so that the ultimate outcome would be the establishment of a permanent mechanism for co-ordinating efforts to control climate

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(Mr. Babington, Australia)

change. In order to be effective, the convention must gain the support of the largest possible number of countries, should address all aspects of climate change, set limits on all greenhouse gas emissions not controlled by the Montreal Protocol and include a wide range of measures to ensure the effective implementation of the convention. The convention should be flexible enough to allow each country to develop strategies appropriate to its own situation, and it should address the particular interests of small islands and low-lying, coastal, and arid and semi-arid countries, as well as the problems of countries whose economies were heavily dependent on the use of fossil fuels.

32. An instrument of the scope and complexity of the framework convention on climate change would require institutional arrangements for its negotiation which would ensure appropriate and adequate support; such arrangements could be provided jointly by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In order to encourage the widest participation possible in the negotiations, the processes for the conduct of the negotiations should be open, follow clear rules of procedure and give all participants an opportunity to make genuine contributions.

33. The international community was collectively responsible for the conservation of biological diversity in all environments for the benefit of present and future generations of mankind. Australia was committed to the early conclusion of an effective international legal instrument on biological diversity and, to that end, had been participating in the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity.

34. Sufficient evidence had emerged on the effect of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing to warrant serious concern and immediate action, particularly since the economies of a number of countries were linked to and in some cases dependent on the effective management and conservation of the fisheries resources within their exclusive economic zones. Australia was staunchly in favour of an immediate ban on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in the South Pacific. In that regard, his delegation welcomed Japan's decision to suspend its driftnet fishing operations in the South Pacific one year ahead of the schedule set out in resolution 44/225, and it welcomed the Taiwanese authorities' announcement that they would comply to the provisions of that resolution with respect to the South Pacific.

35. There was a tendency to downplay the scale of cetacean and other marine life by-catches in the Pacific and other oceans. Conventional management measures would do little to address that problem, since the reductions necessary to protect the most vulnerable species might be so severe as to make the method uneconomical. Action in one region should not lead to the expanded use of driftnets in other oceans. Australia was especially concerned about the possibility of increased driftnet fishing in the Indian Ocean, which would contribute to further depletion of the southern bluefish tuna stock. His delegation was dismayed at reports about the reflagging of vessels as a means of circumventing the spirit of resolution 44/225.

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36. Mr. ARROSPIDE (Peru) said that the persistent trend towards ecological imbalance was directly related to the production and consumption patterns of developed countries. It was therefore clear that the basic difference between the developed and developing countries with respect to the current state of the global environment necessarily implied a different degree of responsibility, which should also be reflected in the efforts to halt and eventually reverse deterioration of the environment.

37. His delegation attached particular importance to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and was firmly convinced that resolution 44/228 constituted a balanced consensus. That resolution reaffirmed that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States had the "sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their environmental policies". The foregoing implied that no guidelines for environmental action should be established without taking account of the particular situation of the developing countries or without their active participation.

38. Since any strategy for halting environmental deterioration required the incorporation of new technologies in the processes of production, particularly in industry, one crucial aspect of the problem was the allocation of additional financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a concessional and preferential basis. Such principles should not only remain in agreements already concluded but should also be reflected in the future commitments. Decision 1/25, adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Environment and Development at its first session, was of great importance since it contained the basic elements involved in the relationship between environment and development. Poverty, the lack of economic growth in most developing countries, external debt, the net negative transfer of resources and the adverse international economic climate all contributed to deterioration of the environment.

39. The Second World Climate Conference had recognized that countries bore a different degree of responsibility with regard to global warming and its negative effects. The consequences of that phenomenon would jeopardize the survival of low-lying coastal States and other small island States, as well as arid and semi-arid areas. Even if such predictions were not entirely accurate, the international community should adopt response strategies as soon as possible.

40. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Arab Maghreb Union, expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77. The States of the Arab Maghreb Union had chosen to make a collective statement because of the importance they attached to the relationship between environmental protection and harmonious development and because they were determined to make every effort to ensure the success of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Finally, they wished to acknowledge the historic progress made by the formation of their Union, which was a logical development for their region, as the Union sought to make the environment one of its areas of operation.

(Mr. Djoghlaf, Algeria)

41. In October 1990, the Union's Economic and Financial Committee had adopted a drinking-water supply plan and agreed on a series of measures to combat desertification and drought which had been elaborated by a working group of the Union's Food Security Committee. That working group had recently adopted a number of co-operation projects on desertification, water supply and environmental assessment and had agreed that a conference of the countries of the region should be held to define environmental protection priorities. In addition, 17 June had been proclaimed Maghreb Environment Day and 21 February, Maghreb Arbour Day, both to be celebrated annually.

42. Of all the assaults perpetrated on the Earth's environment, desertification had the most devastating effects. The degradation of fragile ecosystems in arid and semi-arid regions affected the world's most impoverished regions and neediest people. While desertification occurred in many parts of the world, it was in Africa that its effects - chronic food shortages, endemic famine and constant refugee flows - were felt most acutely. Africa also encompassed three quarters of the world's least developed countries as well as the world's largest desert, the Sahara. Inadequate rainfall in over half the continent caused the desert to spread; each year, more than 6 million hectares were swallowed up and another 21 million hectares rendered unproductive. It was therefore fitting that the topic of drought and desertification should figure prominently in the work of the Conference on environment and development and of its Preparatory Committee. Failure by the international community to honour the commitments it had made in connection with that problem, particularly where financial resources were concerned, reflected the narrow notion that the environmental problems of countries of the South were not the concern of countries in the North. In fact, ecological imbalances did not respect national and regional boundaries.

43. While the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union were threatened by desertification to the south, they also suffered from the effects of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea to the north. Moreover, they had no control over that pollution, which was cuased by patterns of consumption and production in developed coastal countries. Each year more than 650,000 tons of hydrocarbons and 550 tons of pesticides were dumped into the Mediterranean. The resulting disequilibria were aggravated by the overexploitation of marine resources caused by large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing by developed coastal countries. In the light of the information provided in the Secretary-General's report on that subject (A/45/663), the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union would not support any draft resolution that failed to mention the Mediterranean Sea as an area where such fishing took place. Furthermore, any resolution on the subject must contain an explicit ban on the use of that technology by the developed coastal countries of the Mediterranean.

44. General Assembly resolution 44/228 was the result of a compromise reached after long and difficult negotiations, and provided a shaky framework that could be undone by partial or selective interpretations of its provisions. The States on whose behalf he spoke believed that the agreement reached on international co-operation for the removal of remnants of war, mentioned in the sixteenth preambular paragraph of that resolution, formed an integral part of that framework.

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(Mr. Djoghlaf, Algeria)

Five days earlier, an anti-personnel mine left over from the colonial period had exploded in Algeria, killing three children who had mistaken it for a toy. He therefore hoped that that issue would be given due consideration by both the Preparatory Committee and the Conference. The Conference secretariat should furnish the Preparatory Committee with documentation aimed at promoting international co-operation in that area at its next session.

45. The manner in which the Preparatory Committee dealt with questions relating to the transfer of technology and financial resources on concessional terms to the developing countries was crucial to the success of the Conference. Thus, the move to reopen the debate on that issue observed at the first session of the Preparatory Committee was a source of serious concern to the States of the Arab Maghreb Union. Only strict compliance with the relevant provisions of resolution 44/228 would ensure the success of the 1992 Conference, and those States would make every effort to ensure that success was achieved.

46. Mr. REVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should result in broader co-operation in the area of environmental protection, based on the new political and environmental thinking and respect for the interests of all members of the international community. The main task of the Conference was to devise a strategy for the ecological survival of mankind and to define priority areas for international co-operation to protect the environment.

47. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference had made a considerable amount of progress in working out an approach to the conduct of that important environmental forum. At its first session, the Preparatory Committee had adopted all of its decisions by consensus, and it should continue that practice at its future sessions. His delegation commended the high degree of co-ordination between the activities of the Preparatory Committee and UNEP, whose secretariat and Executive Director had taken pains to prepare the basic documentation for the work of the Preparatory Committee.

48. The Conference on environment and development should consider issues related to environmental security and their impact on the international political situation, since international conflicts arising from environmental concerns were occurring with increased frequency. Certain aspects of the responsibility of States for ensuring environmental security must be rethought, and principles of diplomacy and international legal norms in the area of environmental protection must be developed. An international expert study of major economic projects which could have inter-State and regional consequences should be undertaken, and a mechanism for international co-operation in the monitoring, assessment and prediction of environmental threats should be established.

49. Europe could serve as an example of the organization of international environmental co-operation at the regional and interregional levels. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), with its rich experience in conducting research and carrying out projects in the field of the environment, was a reliable forum for

(Mr. Reva, Ukrainian SSR)

such co-operation. The Bergen Conference, held by the Government of Norway in co-operation with ECE in May 1990, had made an important contribution to the preparations for the 1992 Conference, and the documents adopted at the Bergen Conference should be closely studied by specialists.

50. Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/50 on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident was one example of the practical implementation of the Bergen Conference's appeal to Governments and international organizations to provide assistance in overcoming the consequences of industrial accidents which had transboundary consequences. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution on that issue, which had been jointly prepared by the delegations of the Ukrainian SSR, the Byelorussian SSR and the Soviet Union, would be adopted by the General Assembly by consensus.

51. The Conference on environment and development should be conducted at the heads of State or Government level, since a high level of political participation would have considerable bearing on the content of the decisions which would be adopted. Non-governmental organizations, including businesses and youth, scientific, social and environmental organizations, should also participate in the work of the Conference. The outcome of the Conference should be the signing of a binding international legal instrument containing basic principles and norms for the environmental behaviour of States, as well as a programme for concerted practical action.

52. The report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 (A/45/696) was evidence of the efforts of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) connected with the drafting of the framework convention of climate change. Such work should be conducted in close co-operation with WMO and UNEP. The first assessment report of IPCC contained a wealth of facts and analytical material and could be a great help in working out national policies for responding to, and preventing further, climate change.

53. The Ukrainian SSR whole-heartedly supported the recommendations of the open-ended working group on the framework convention on climate change, and fully agreed with the working group that the framework convention should be ready in time for the Conference on environment and development in June 1992.

54. Mr. TANLAY (Turkey) said that life on Earth for future generations could be threatened if mankind did not immediately take the necessary steps to protect the environment. Various forms of environmental degradation had become increasingly evident, requiring different but complementary and co-ordinated solutions; without satisfactory conservation measures, there could be no long-term sustained development. Accordingly, durable and ecologically sound development must be a major objective of the new international development strategy.

55. The importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, together with its preparatory process, could not be underestimated. The Conference was coming at a time when new environmental issues continued to be

(Mr. Tanlay, Turkey)

raised, and existing problems called for more concerted action based on a spirit of sacrifice and collective responsibility. The Conference should agree on specific measures to protect the environment and correct the damage already done, while accommodating the special situation of the developing countries.

56. The prompt conclusion of a world climate convention to curb such phenomena as global warming, depletion of the ozone layer and deforestation was crucial. He welcomed the outcome of the Second World Climate Conference, which had drafted guidelines for a framework convention on climate change. He also welcomed the Ministerial Declaration of that Conference, which called for the launching of negotiations in February 1991. It was to hoped that a convention would be opened for signature at the 1992 Conference. He also endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives in document A/45/696.

57. Regional preparations for the Conference were also of importance in preventing further environmental degradation. The numerous meetings held during the past year had emphasized the importance of international co-operation and collective responsibility for environmental protection. Yet the industrialized countries, which accounted for 70 per cent of world consumption of energy, must assume special responsibility for preventing or limiting environmental damage and helping the developing countries to achieve sustainable and ecologically sound development. Conference preparations for the transfer of ecologically sound technologies to the developing countries and the provision of new and additional financial resources to enable them to participate more effectively in global efforts to protect the environment were of the utmost importance and called for a global approach.

58. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) said that his country's experience with environmental problems was likely to be instructive for other countries. During the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s, preoccupation with development needs had been so great that little attention had been paid to the rapid degradation of Thailand's environment. Growing industrialization and urbanization had resulted in polluted air and water; the rapid depletion of natural forests had seriously eroded soil, causing landslides and flash flooding in many areas and a general warming of the climate.

59. Fortunately, Thailand had recognized the problem early on and had taken steps to cope with it. Fifteen years earlier, a National Environment Board had been created to conduct programmes on conservation. Recently the Government had intensified its efforts: a major publicity campaign to enhance public awareness of environmental problems had been launched and the Ministry of Education was drafting a strategy to integrate environmental concerns into the curriculum at all levels of education. Thailand had also recognized the need to integrate environmental concerns in national social and economic development policies; each province was responsible for drafting a resources and environmental management plan which would be incorporated into the plan for the country as a whole. That endeavour was intended to decentralize decision-making and promote public responsibility and participation.

(Mr. Pibulsonggram, Thailand)

60. Thailand's Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan set specific goals for improving the quality of life and the environment and protecting the country's natural resource base. Logging concessions had been banned and intense reforestation measures undertaken by the Government and the private sector. Funds for the construction of waste-water treatment plants had been increased, the compulsory use of lead-free petrol was being considered and the penalties imposed under anti-pollution laws were being raised.

61. Thailand had recently hosted a ministerial-conference on environment and development in Asia and the Pacific and had become a party to various international instruments on the environment. The King and Queen of Thailand had set an example with their awareness of environmental issues, having initiated crop-substitution, reforestation, watershed development and wildlife preservation projects.

62. As the 1990s approached, a more concerted approach to environmental problems was necessary. While the international community had agreed in principle on the need for specific measures to counter environmental degradations, specific actions had failed to materialize thus far: for example, at the Second World Climate Conference, delegations had failed to agree on targets to reduce CO_2 emissions. The Ministerial Declaration of the Conference was an expression of noble intentions that lacked specific targets for action.

63. Individual countries had varying levels of resources to devote to environmental protection. While funds and technical expertise could be employed by developing countries without serious macro-economic consequences, developing countries were burdened with poverty, overpopulation, inadequate infrastructures and a need to apply limited resources to many areas. All countries must therefore help one another according to their means. Obstacles hampering environmentally sound and sustainable development must be removed. Special attention must be given to the plight of the developing countries, especially the least developed among them. Given the importance of sustainable development, national environment policies and plans should attempt to balance development and environmental objectives.

64. His delegation looked forward to the Conference on environment and development which should yield a strategy leading to the formulation of global environmental policies. Proposals must be made to prevent further degradation of the environment and rectify the damage done. Difficult issues, such as the need for additional resources to the developing countries, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on a preferential basis, the sharing of expertise in the areas of resource management and institution-building, must be addressed. The Conference must also discuss timetables, co-operation arrangements and the assignment of responsibility for a programme of work that continued beyond 1992. The results of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference were encouraging, although Conference objectives had yet to be defined.

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(Mr. Pibulsonggram, Thailand)

65. Thailand actively participated on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other technical bodies concerned with research on climate change and sea-level rises. The Thai Government was currently reviewing the First Assessment Report of IPCC with a view to developing appropriate response strategies at the national level. The industrialized countries, which were largely responsible for the accumulation of greenouse gas, must make an effort to limit further emissions and transfer environmentally sound technologies on concessional or preferential terms to developing countries. The proper balance between economic and environmental concerns must be struck in the negotiating process. Dividing the work into several stages might prove to be the most effective strategy for negotiating a framework convention on climate change and related protocols on, *inter alia*, carbon dioxide and forests. His delegation would elaborate on the proposed strategy at the negotiating session in February 1991 and at the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on environment and development.

66. Mr. GODIN (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) stressed the role of the scientific community in national decision-making on climate issues. UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) had contributed significantly to the World Climate Programme through their assessments of the major role of oceans in governing the world climate system and climate change, the role of the global water cycle in climate and the impact of climate change on fresh-water resources. It was also exploring the land-atmosphere interface and the impact of climate change on terrestrial ecosytems, past climate changes in relation to geological processes and the energy/climate link. UNESCO's partners in those initiatives included WMO, UNEP, FAO, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The role of the ocean in the climate system was comparable to that of the atmosphere. The heat storage and transfer by oceans was comparable to that in the atmosphere. The ocean also absorbed and released carbon dioxide and was a large source of water vapour, a very important greenhouse gas. The effects of sea-level and temperature rises on coastal zones and small islands also influenced climate. Through IOC, UNESCO was studying all of those aspects of the oceans's impact on climate change.

67. Together with WMO and UNEP, IOC was working on an urgently needed global ocean observing system which could feed adequate data to climate prediction models. To that end, IOC had established a group of experts, whose status report on existing ocean observation system components and draft strategy would be reviewed in the light of the results of the Second World Climate Conference. IOC, UNEP and WMO had elaborated a draft proposal for a global coastal zone observing system capable of observing parameters and processes for the detection and assessment of climate change and its impact on coastal zones. The draft would be reviewed at an expert meeting in December 1990 and plans for a pilot programme would be formulated.

68. The hydrological cycle, a major vehicle of energy and mass transfers between land, ocean and atmosphere, was another area of interest to UNESCO. UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme was probing some of the uncertainties

(Mr. Godin, UNESCO)

connected with the hydrological cycle, including the hydrological consequences of melting glaciers and polar ice masses and rising sea level on coastal acquifers and estuaries. UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme was studying plant and animal responses to global warming.

69. Regrettably, specialists from developing countries were not sufficiently involved in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and participation in the World Climate Programme was limited to a small number of countries with sophisticated scientific capabilities. UNESCO and IOC would be prepared to assist the Second Committee in addressing the issues of training and institutional capacity-building in developing countries. Recognizing the importance of public information and, in particular, of providing scientific and technical information to decision makers, UNESCO had introduced climate issues in its education programmes at all levels.

70. Ms. FRITSCHE (Liechtenstein) said that, more than ever, international co-operation was necessary to combat the many threats to the environment, including atmospheric pollution, potential climate change and the deterioration of resources. Co-operation between industrialized and developing countries would be particularly important. Overall integrated environmental protection was essential to a small country like Liechtenstein which had been very active in ecopolitics for many years. Its primary focus had been on water protection, air protection and waste management and soil protection policies. Liechtenstein also attached great importance to the protection of flora and fauna and of biotopes. It was making special efforts to rehabilitate lost biotopes, create a biotope network, revitalize rivers and streams and preserve special locations.

71. Ecopolitics in Liechtenstein was based on the "polluter pays" principle, the precautionary principle and the co-operation principle. Convinced that small States also had a responsibility to meet global challenges, Liechtenstein was a party to all the major international agreements on the environment. In that connection, it attached particular importance to the 1992 Conference on environment and development and was prepared to participate in the elaboration of a framework convention on climate change and related protocols.

72. Mr. OUALI (Burkina Faso) said that the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) constituted the framework for Burkina Faso's policy on desertification control.

73. The Government had obtained encouraging results by building awareness of environmental issues among the populations, particularly among women. Non-governmental organizations were assisting in the efforts to control excessive wood cutting, roving animals and brush fires. The Naam movement in Burkina Faso had been recognized by the international community for its contribution to protection of the environment. Indeed, the Right Livelihood Prize had been awarded to its founder, Dr. Ouedrago, for championing environmental and human rights.

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(Mr. Ouali, Burkina Faso)

74. The developing countries trusted that they would not be penalized for applying environmental protection measures. Under agenda item 82 on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, his delegation had stressed the relationship between poverty and the environment, which should remain a priority issue in the action taken by the international community.

75. The responses presented at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on environment and development gave cause for optimism. The "polluter pays" principle had been recognized and it had been generally agreed that pollution emanated mainly from the industrialized North. In addition to providing financial aid to developing countries, the countries of the North must ensure the transfer of non-polluting and readily adaptable technologies to the developing countries. The United Nations could also play an important role in the transition to new and renewable sources of energy. The developing countries hoped that the international community would help them to identify suitable projects, particularly in agriculture and cattle-raising for the conservation of land resources (soil, water, etc.).

76. Additional resources must be provided to ensure implementation of the decisions to be taken at the landmark 1992 Conference in Brazil. The developing countries and particularly the least developed countries must participate in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. Each of those countries should appoint at least two representatives for the preparatory sessions. In conclusion, he remarked that the 1992 Conference was concerned with both environment and development but development must not be overshadowed by the more publicized issue of the environment.

77. Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

78. Ms. CAREY (Bahamas) applauded the outcome of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference and hoped that the General Assembly would endorse its recommendations. She also supported the goals elaborated by the Secretary-General of the Conference. Equitable representation by non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries would ensure a balance between the focus on environment and development. Scientific and other organizations should also be encouraged to participate. Achieving the objectives of the Conference would require the support of the entire United Nations system and all Member States, particularly the developed countries, which had a fundamental responsibility to assist the developing countries on environmental issues.

79. The special financial measures taken to facilitate participation by the developing countries in the preparatory process were commendable. As the contributions to the voluntary fund were not yet sufficient to implement the programme of work, all States able to provide resources were encouraged to do so.

80. Rising pollution levels and the degradation of coastal ecosystems threatened the life-support capacities of oceans and seas and undermined their role in the food chain. Her delegation wished to encourage international co-operation for

(Ms. Carey, Bahamas)

marine pollution control and environmental management of oceans and seas. Governments must introduce policies for preventing practices which harmed marine ecosystems and the environmentally sound development of inland areas. Such policies should address the discharge of industrial effluents and sewage; the disposal of hazardous residues and operational wastes from ships; and oil spills from tankers. Her delegation applauded the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and UNEP in that regard.

81. Developing countries were deeply concerned by hazardous wastes and, particularly, the export thereof in the absence of a simultaneous transfer of the managerial capability necessary to deal with them. Until such time as production and storage processes could be made less hazardous, technical and regulatory measures would be necessary in the exporting countries. Few developing countries had been able to develop a hazardous waste system, for lack of regulation, trained manpower and waste treatment and disposal facilities. Those countries could benefit greatly from a busy exchange of information, with special emphasis on waste minimization, recycling and reuse. She was pleased to announce the successful outcome of the Latin American Ministerial Conference, held in Trinidad and Tobago in August, at which a Plan of Action for the Latin American and Caribbean region was adopted.

82. Technical co-operation among countries, at the regional and global levels, must be encouraged so that developing countries would have access to modern technology and the necessary expertise for collecting and interpreting environmental data. Governments must also educate their citizens - producers and consumers alike - on the environmental impact of their activities. The developed countries bore a special responsibility to devise less harmful production techniques.

83. Convinced that climate change was inevitable and that mitigating action was urgently needed, her delegation welcomed the successful outcome of the Second World Climate Conference. It hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the Geneva preparatory meeting on organizational arrangements for negotiations. In an age of increased globalization, the challenge of environmental protection offered an unprecedented opportunity for greater interdependence and international co-operation. In that spirit, her delegation attached great importance to the convening of the 1992 Conference on environment and development and would make every effort to carry out the recommendations of resolution 44/228.

84. Mr. Papadatos (Greece), resumed the Chair.

85. Mr. DEFFENBAUGH (Lutheran World Federation), speaking on behalf of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), expressed appreciation for the opportunity given to address the Committee. CONGO attached particular importance to the 1992 Conference on environment and development and, because of its own activities in those fields, was keenly aware of the Conference's dual aspect. He referred to

(Mr. Deffenbaugh)

decision 1/1 of the Preparatory Committee on the role of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the Conference on environment and development (A/45/46) and expressed the hope that participation from international, regional and national non-governmental organizations would be as broad as possible, encompassing citizens' organizations, scientific and academic bodies, and technical and professional associations.

86. CONGO welcomed the request of the General Assembly, in resolution 44/228, for relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the Conference, and also the Preparatory Committee's recognition, in its decision 1/1, of the importance of the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process.

87. Referring to paragraphs 4 and 6 of the decision, he said that CONGO construed relevant non-governmental organizations to mean both those in consultative status and others interested in the issues to be dealt with by the Conference.

88. Referring to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the decision, he said that the complexity of non-governmental organization involvement throughout the world made inappropriate the concept of sectors or constituencies. If anything, linkage of such issues as environment, development and human rights and their wide geographical distribution could be considered the major strengths of those organizations. In the past, official United Nations cover pages had been provided for written presentations by such organizations. It would be helpful if, in that spirit, the Secretariat of the Conference could allocate a document reference number for them.

89. It was to be hoped that all such organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and those which collaborated with other organs of the United Nations system would have a voice in formulating guidelines for the Conference. It would be useful to consult the sections relevant to those organizations in the Draft Standard Rules of Procedure for United Nations conferences (A/38/298). In conclusion, CONGO welcomed the Preparatory Committee's proposal to utilize extrabudgetary resources so as to enable non-governmental organization representatives from developing countries to participate in the preparatory process.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.